

AS THE HUGE PLANE ZOOMS LOW OVER THE PRISON CAMP. A DEADLY GAS PUFFS OUT OF ITS EXHAUST AND SEVERAL LARGE BOXES ARE DUMPED OUT















A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE GIANT PLANE TAKES ABOARD ALL THE ESCAPED PRISONERS, CLIMBS SEVERAL MILES INTO THE SKY AND











NO SOLDIER WOULD TAKE

ON THE AUTHORITY TO

DO A THING LIKE THAT.







































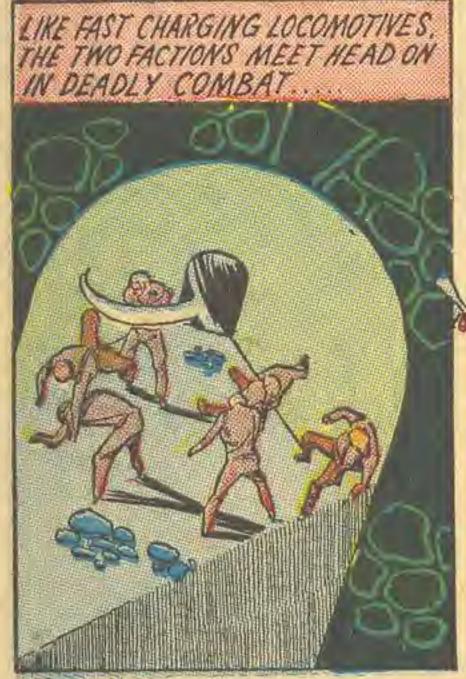














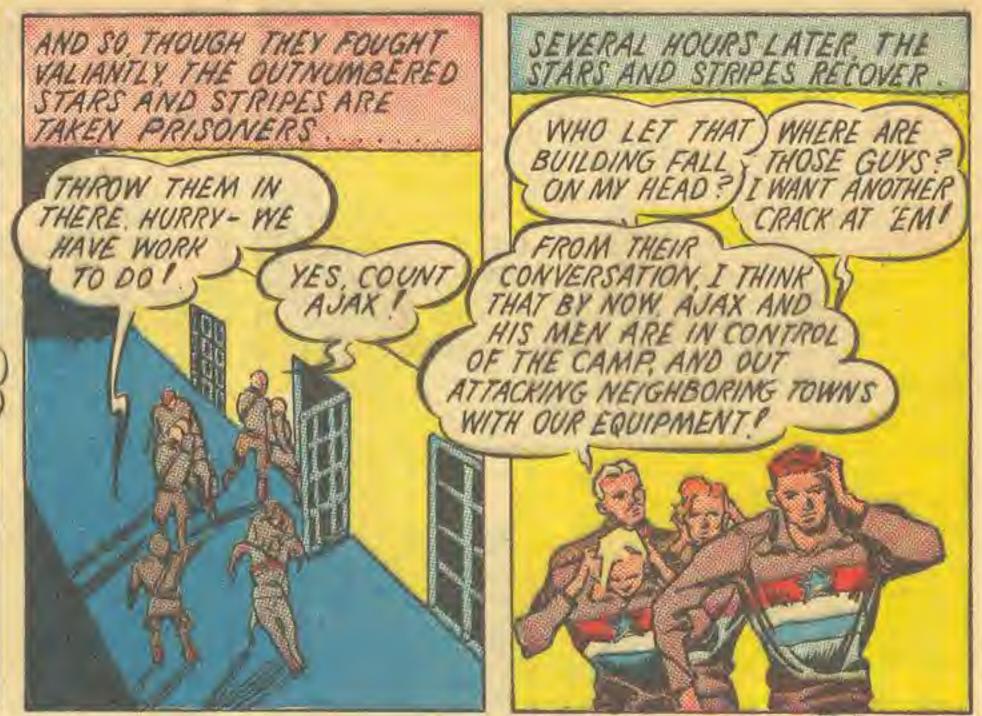














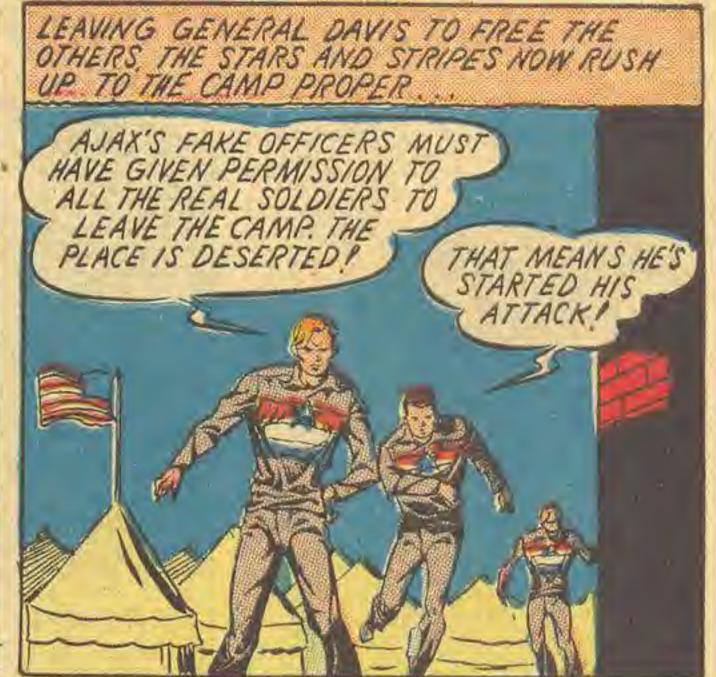


























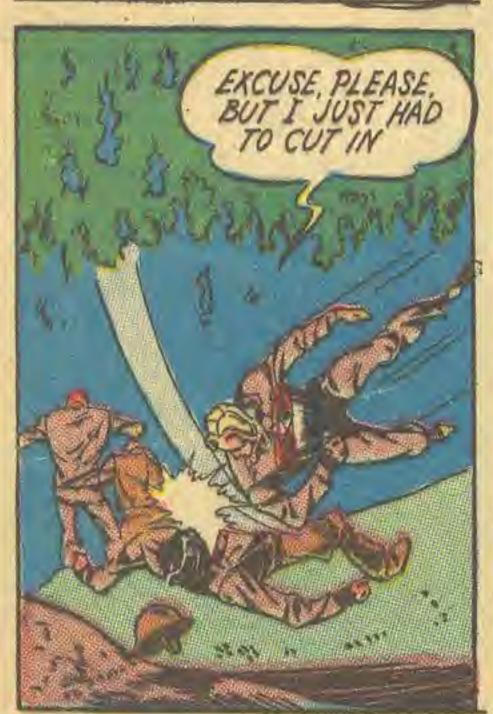


VAN, YOU STAY HERE AND

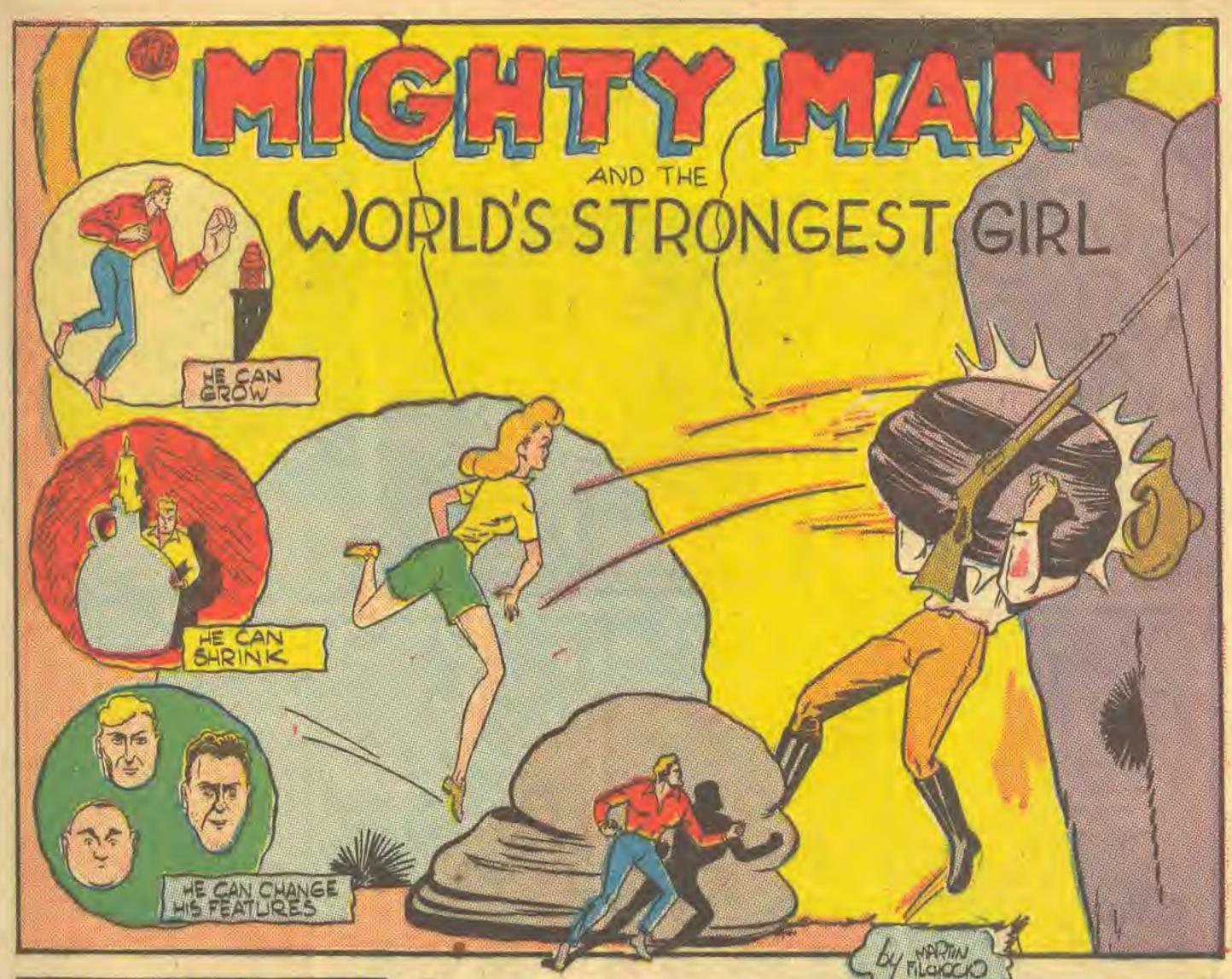


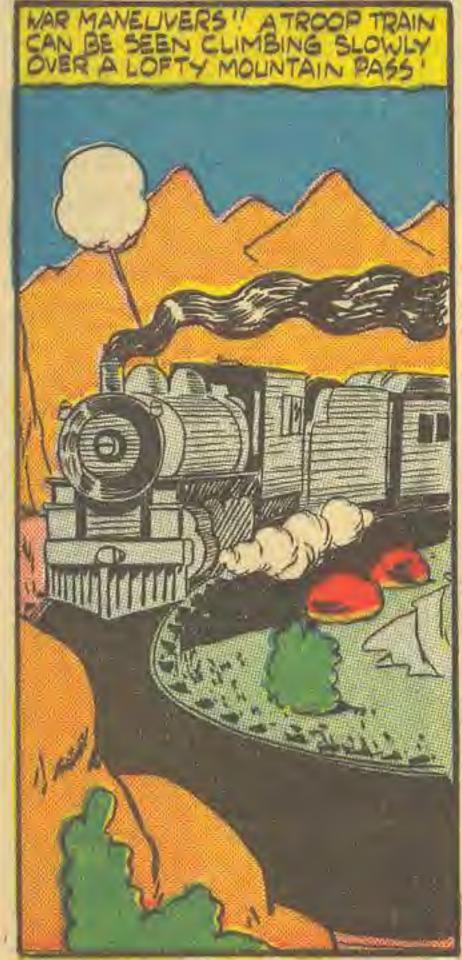




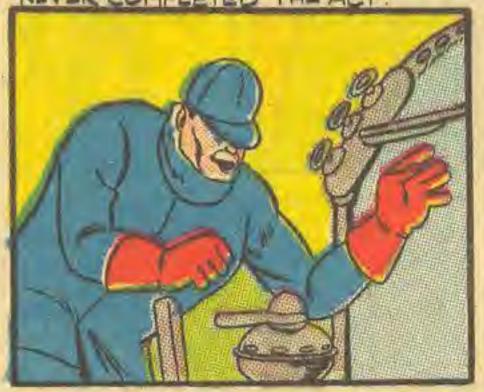








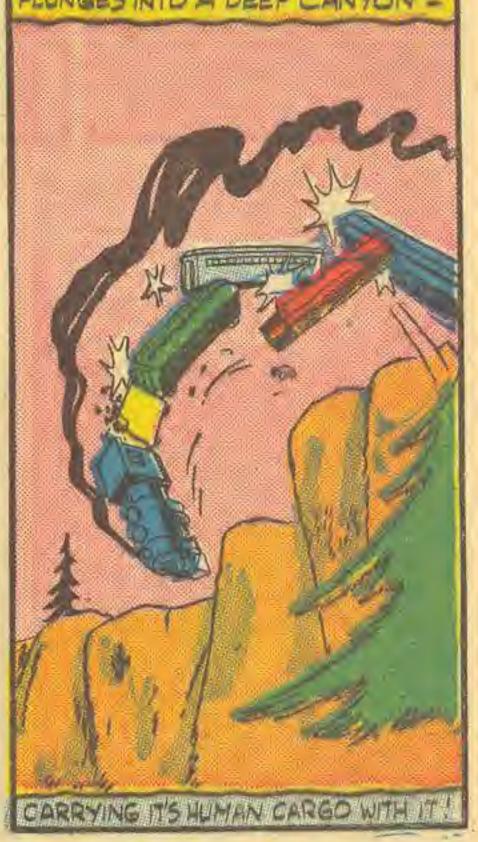
THE ENGINEER REACHES FOR THE AIR BRAKE AS THE TRAIN BEGINS IT'S LONG DOWN GRADE RUN-BUT HE NEVER COMPLETED THE ACT.



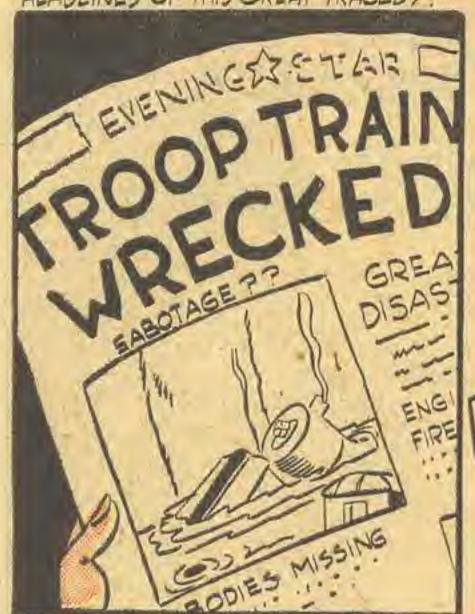
THE FIREMAN DASHES TO HIS SIDE -BUT LIKE THE ENGINEER HE ALSO PITCHES FOREWARD --- DEAD



THE PILOTLESS TRAIN SPEEDS MADLY
DOWN THE MOUNTAIN - FAILING TO
MAKE A SHARP CURVE - IT LEAVES
THE TRACKS AND LIKE A COMET
PLUNGES INTO A DEEP CANYON -



THE EVENING PAPERS SCREAM THEIR HEADLINES OF THIS GREAT TRAGEDY.































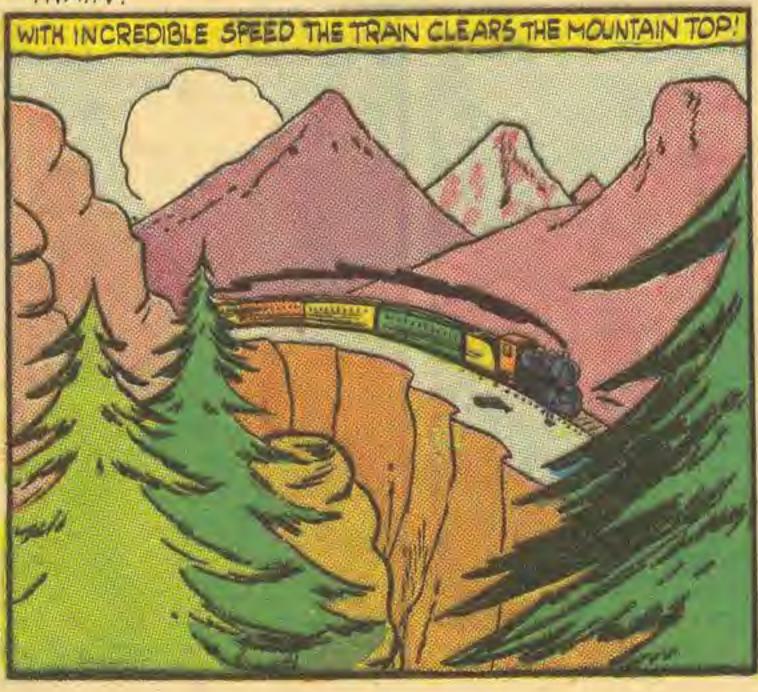
THE STREAMLINER, A FAST
POWERFULL LOCOMOTIVE FULLY
MANNED AND LOADED DOWN
WITH ARMED ARMY OFFICERS,
WAS CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO TRAINS







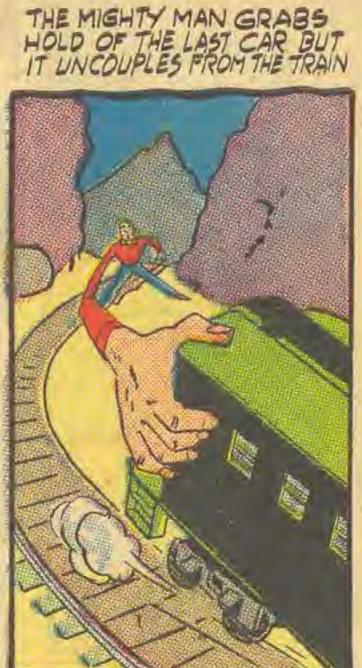






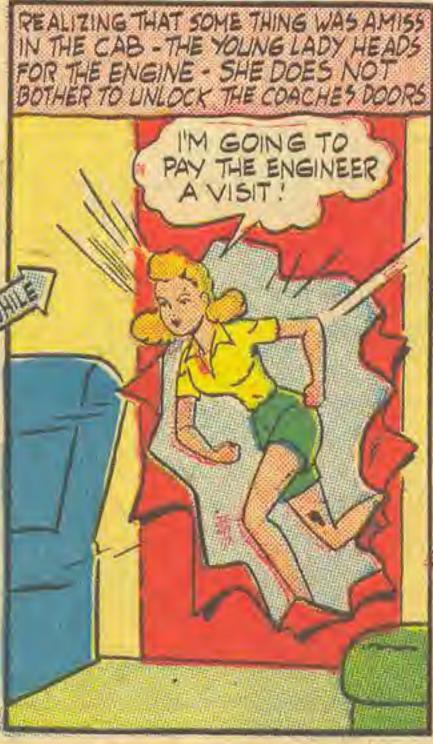












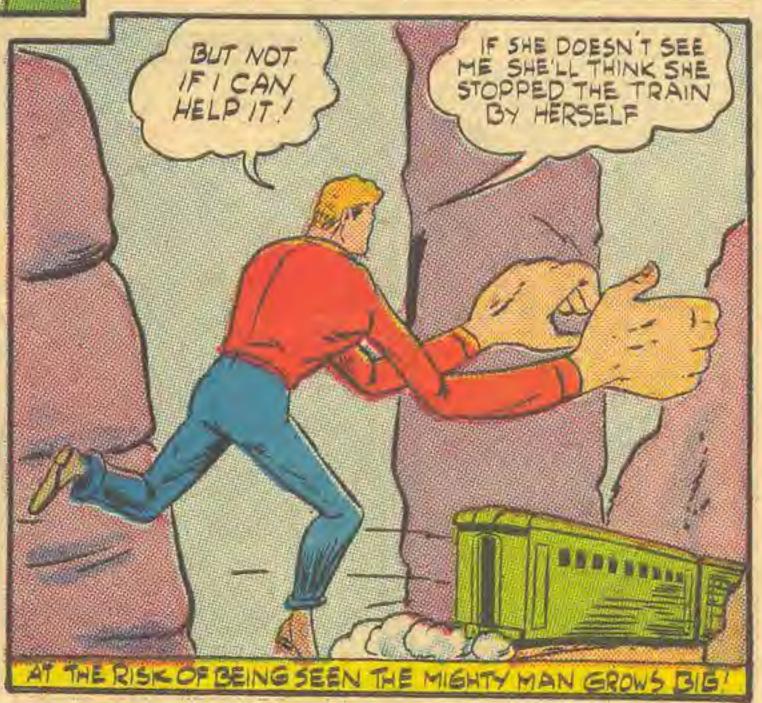




THE BRAKE SHOES ARE WORN OUT!







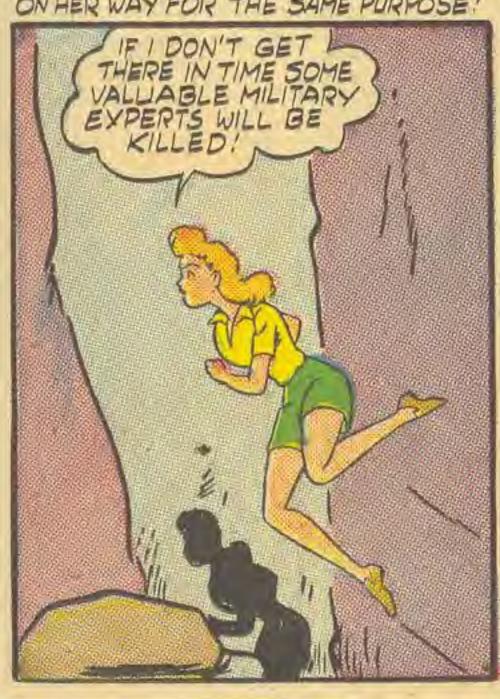








BUT SUPER ANN STAR WAS ALREADY ON HER WAY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE!







IN A FEW SECONDS SHE HAD THE RAIL-POAD BLOCKED WITH HUSE BOULDERS!

HER MOTHER TOLD ME THAT AN OLD MAN FROM ANOTHER PLANET TAUGHT HER HOW TO PERFORM THOSE FEATS OF STRENGTH - I BET



FROM AFAR THE MIGHTY MAN LOOKS UPON THIS AHAZING FEAT

SUDDENLY SUPER ANN STAR LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MIGHTY MAN



THE MIGHTY MAN SHRINKS TO AVOID BEING SEEN!



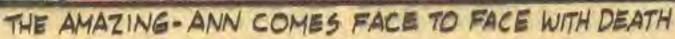
THIS BIT OF QUICK THINKING PROBABLY SAVED HIS LIFE - AS A HIGH POWERED BULLET STRIKES THE ROCK WHERE HIS HEAD HAD BEEN A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE!

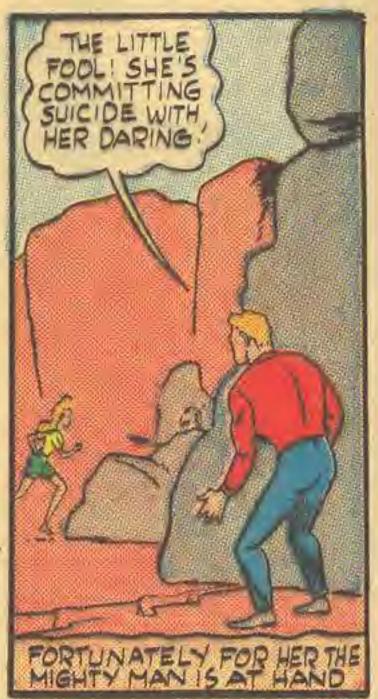


SUPER-ANN HEARS THE BULLET RICOCHET OFF THE BOULDER! SHE NOTICES A PUFF OF SMOKE HIGH UP ON THE CLIFF!



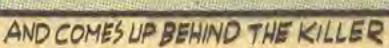




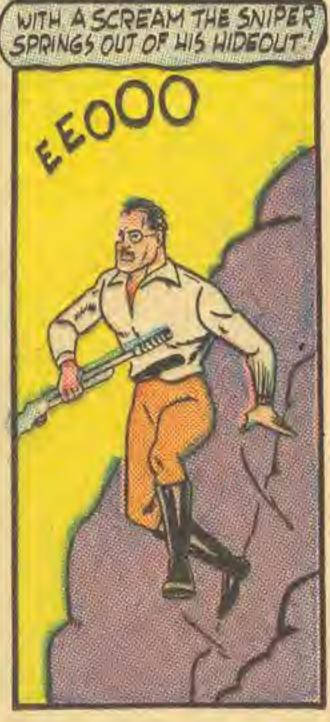












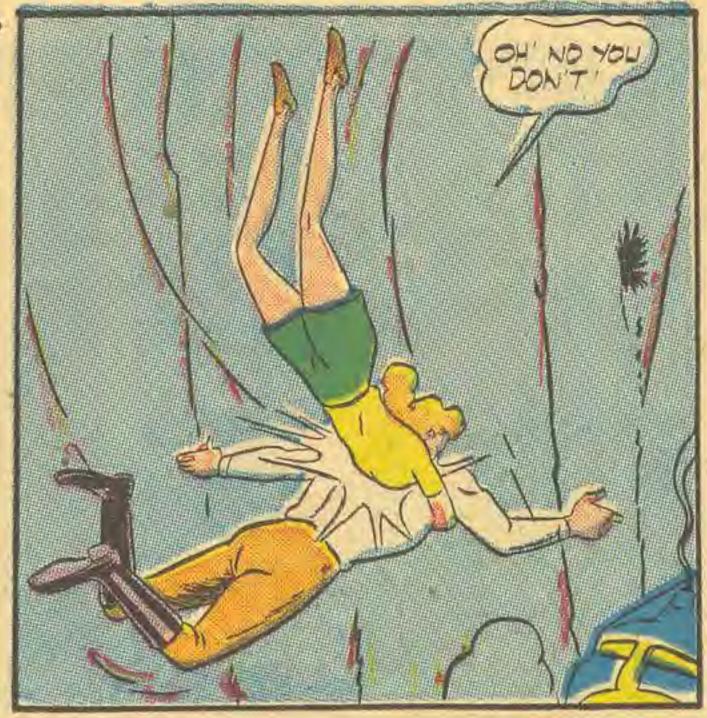






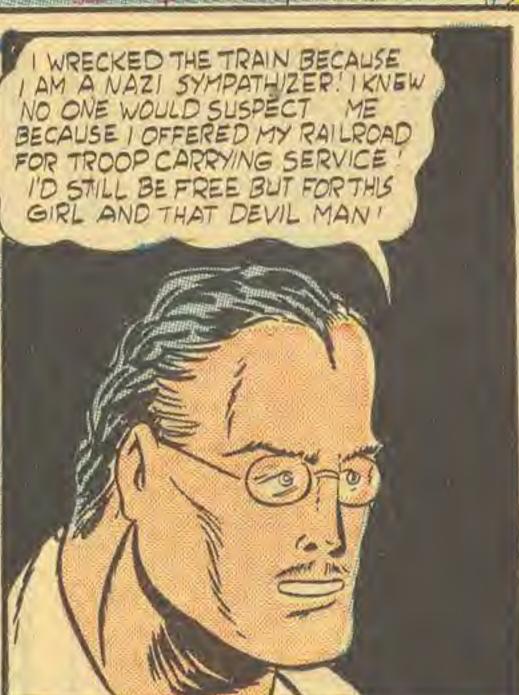
BUT THE COWARDLY KILLER DREFERS DEATH TO FACING THE WRATH OF THE U.S. ARMY OFFICERS









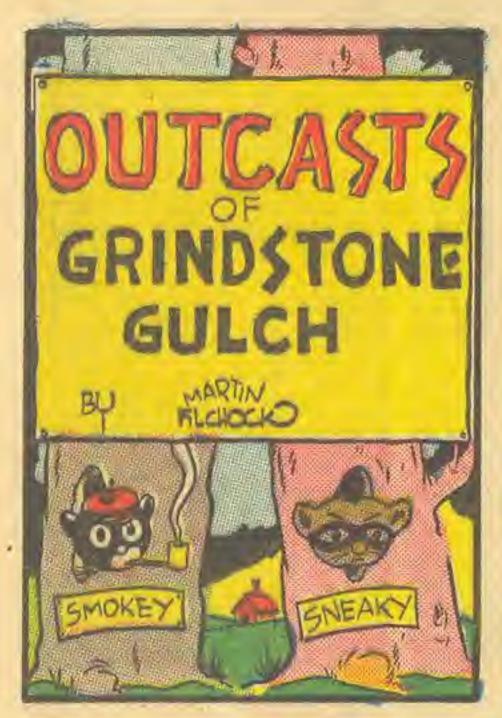












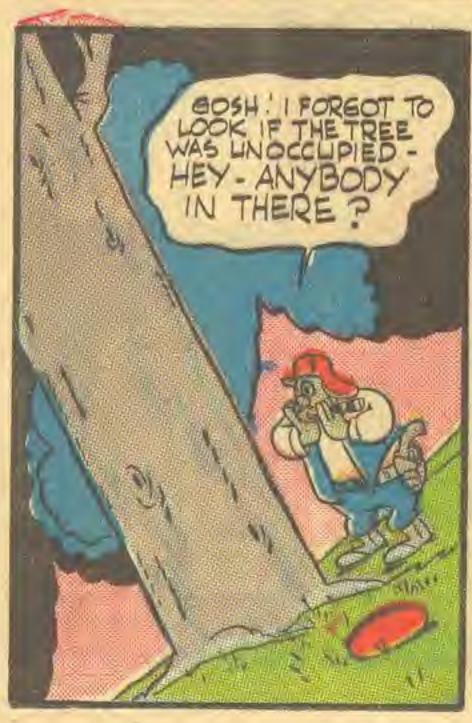


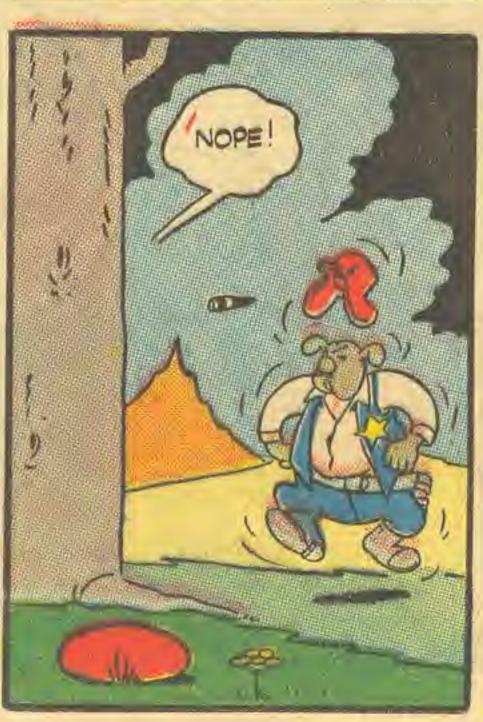




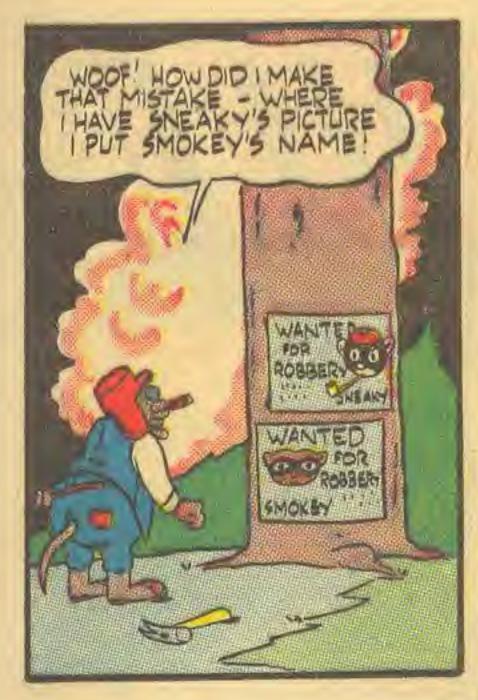




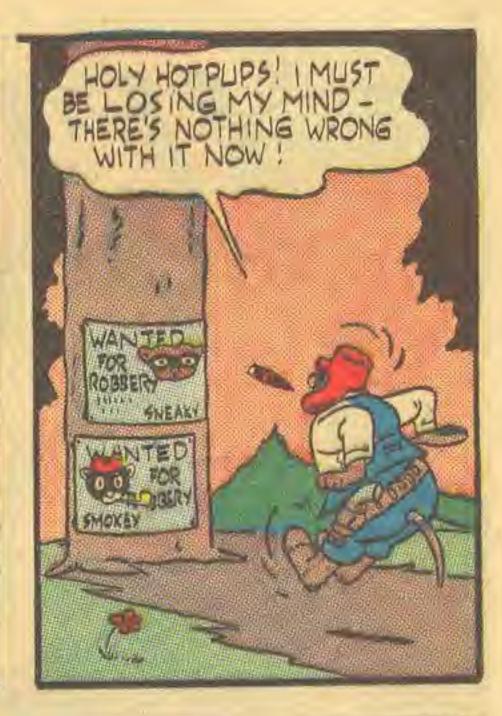














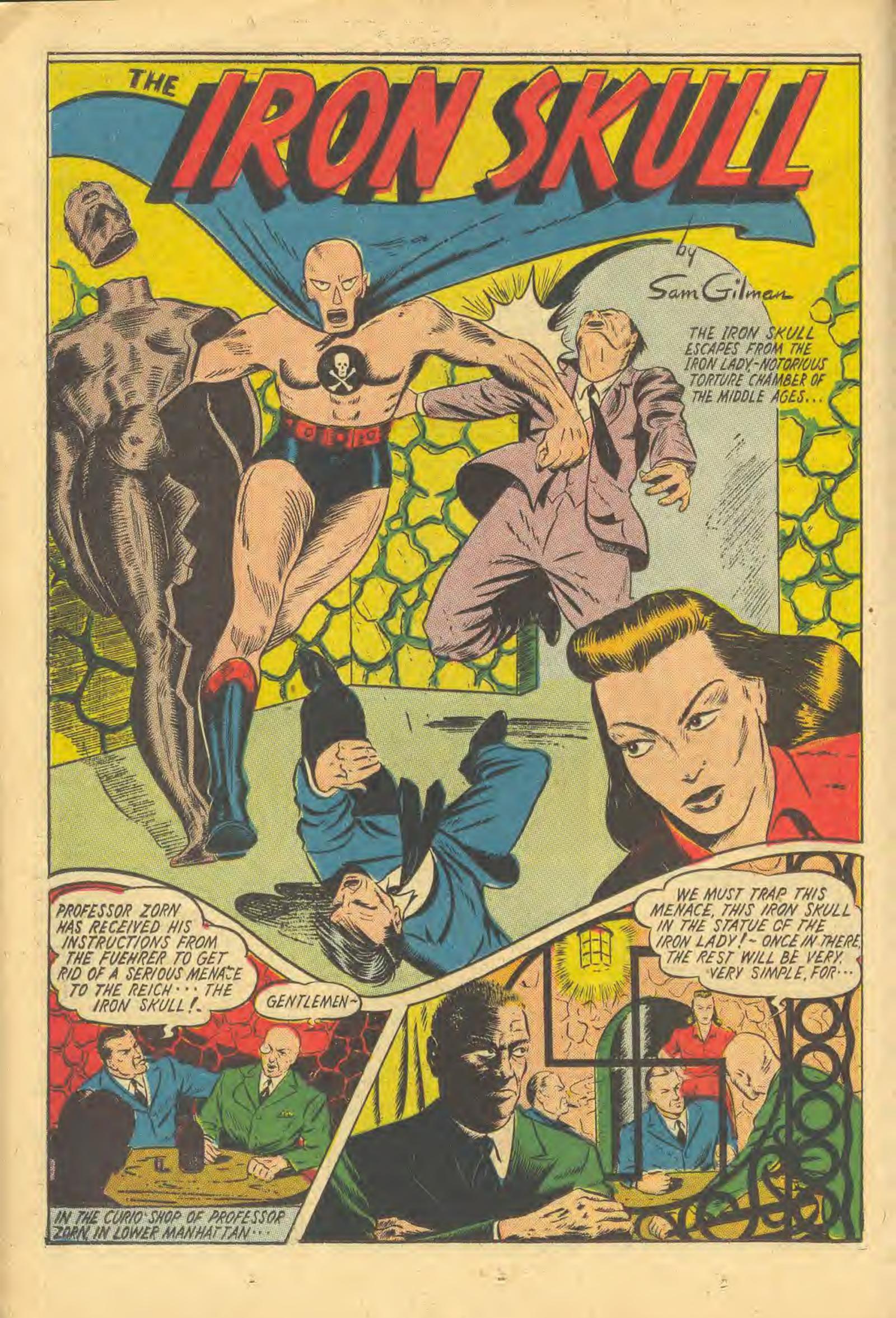










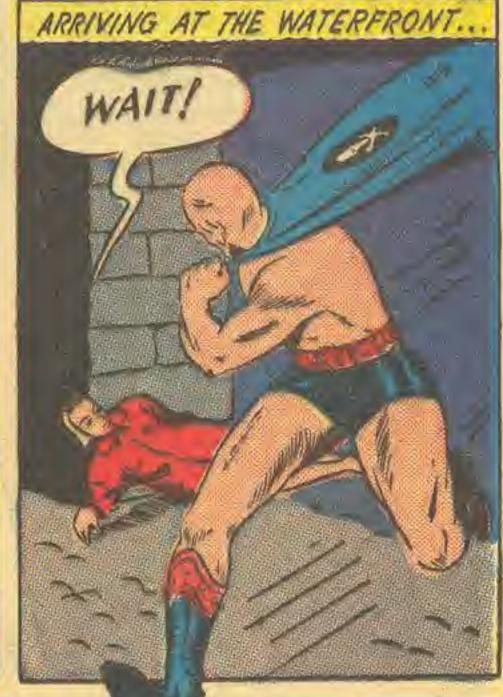










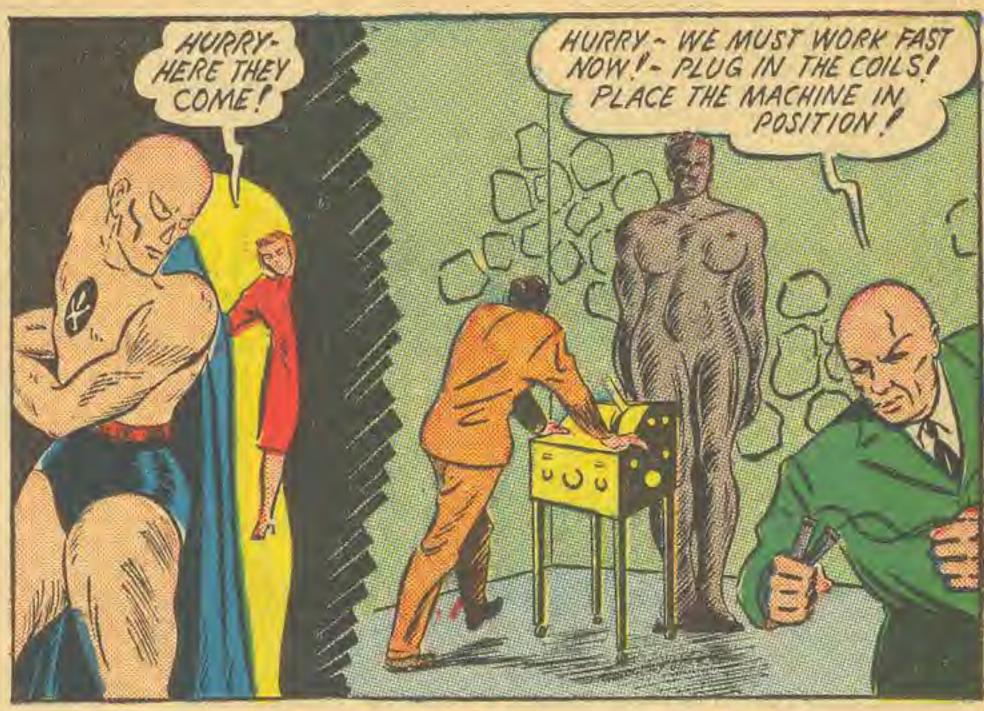








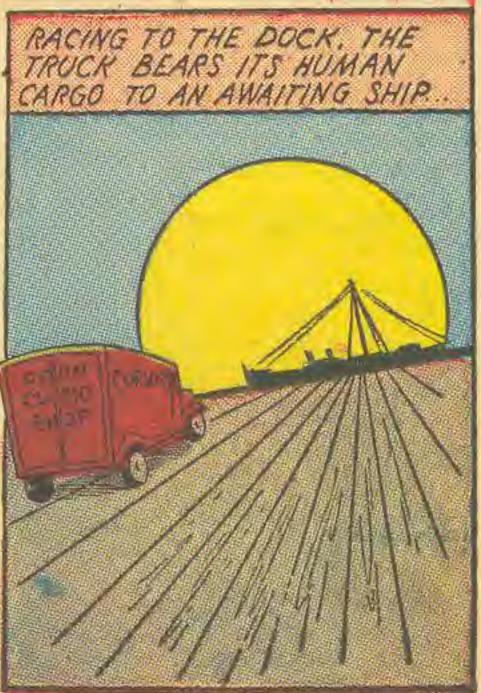






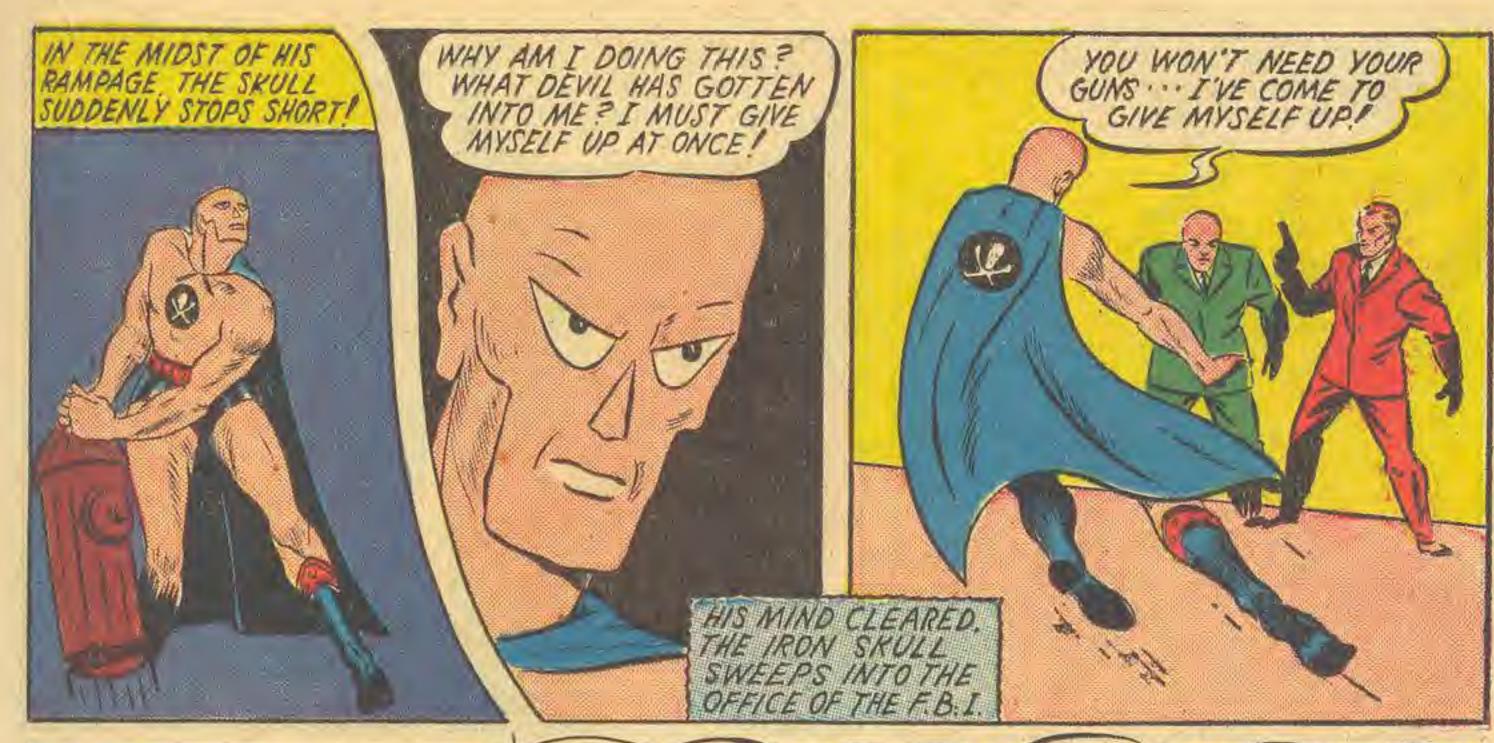






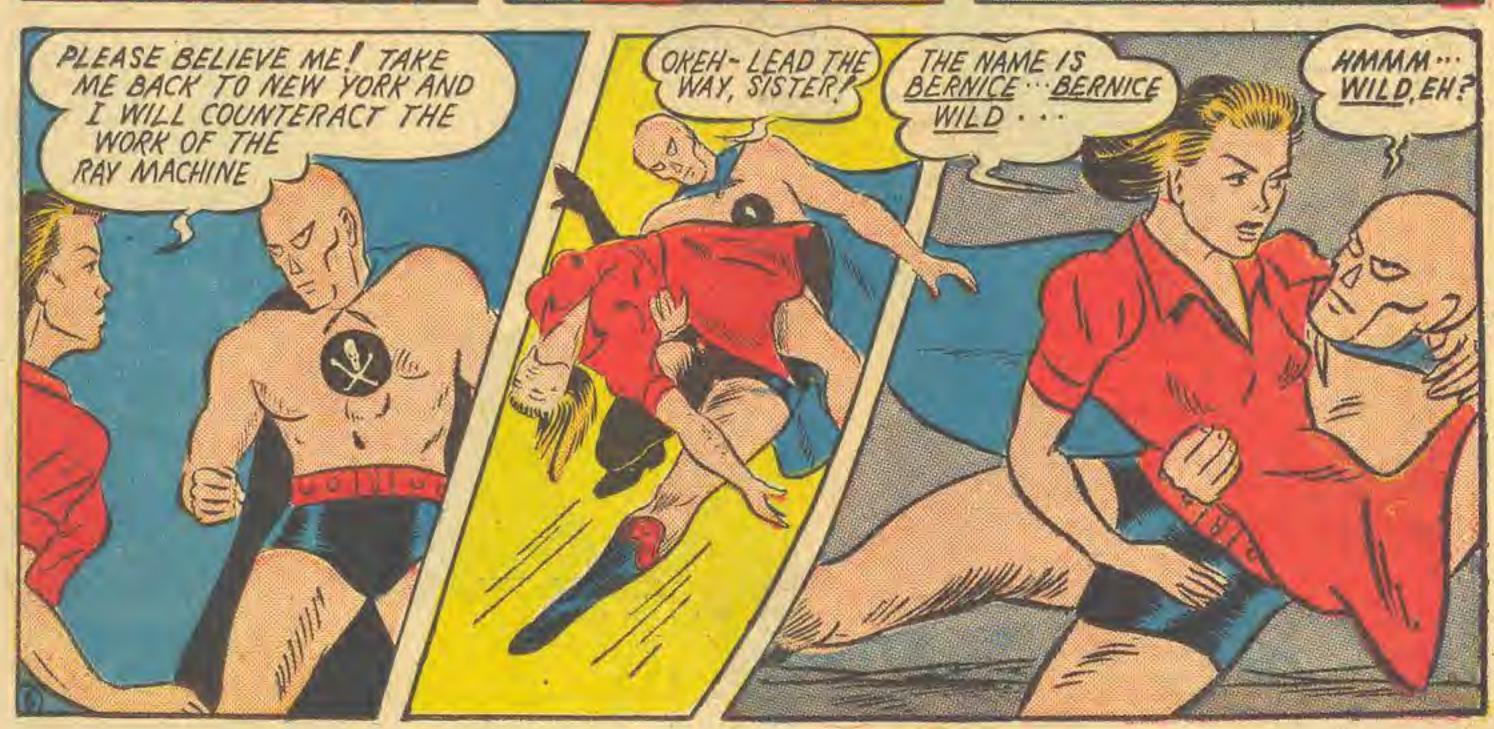






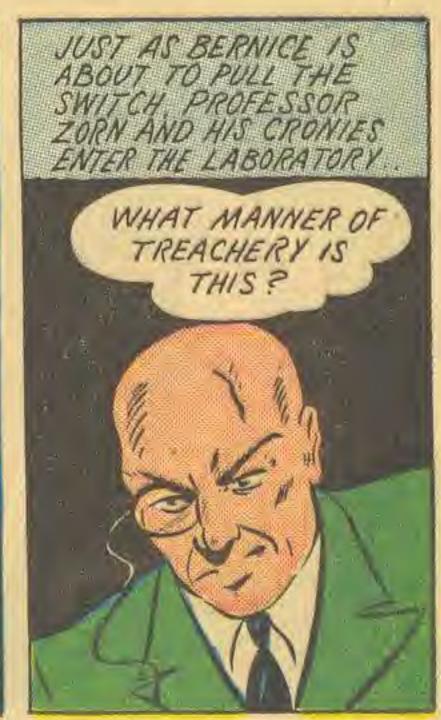


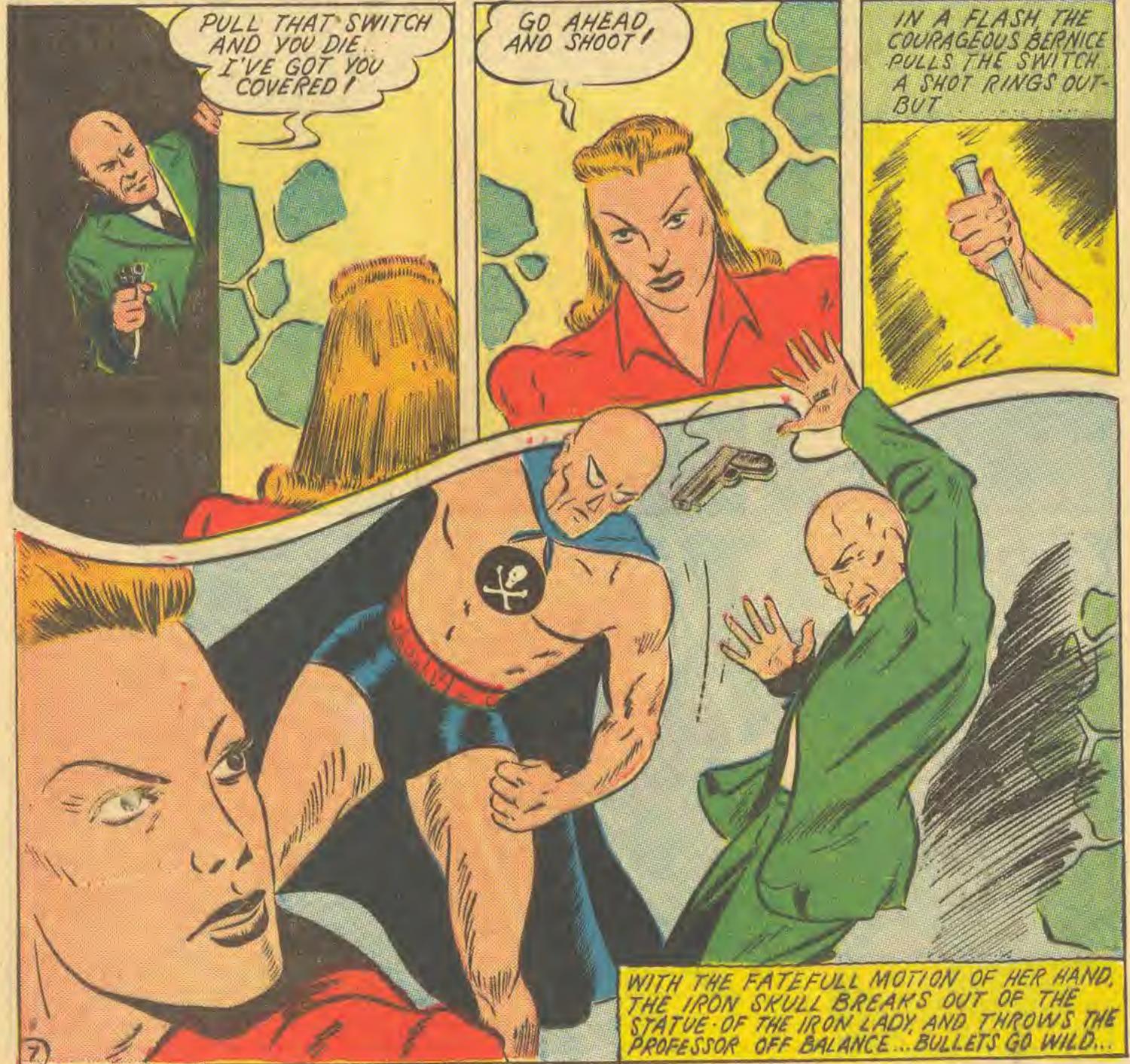


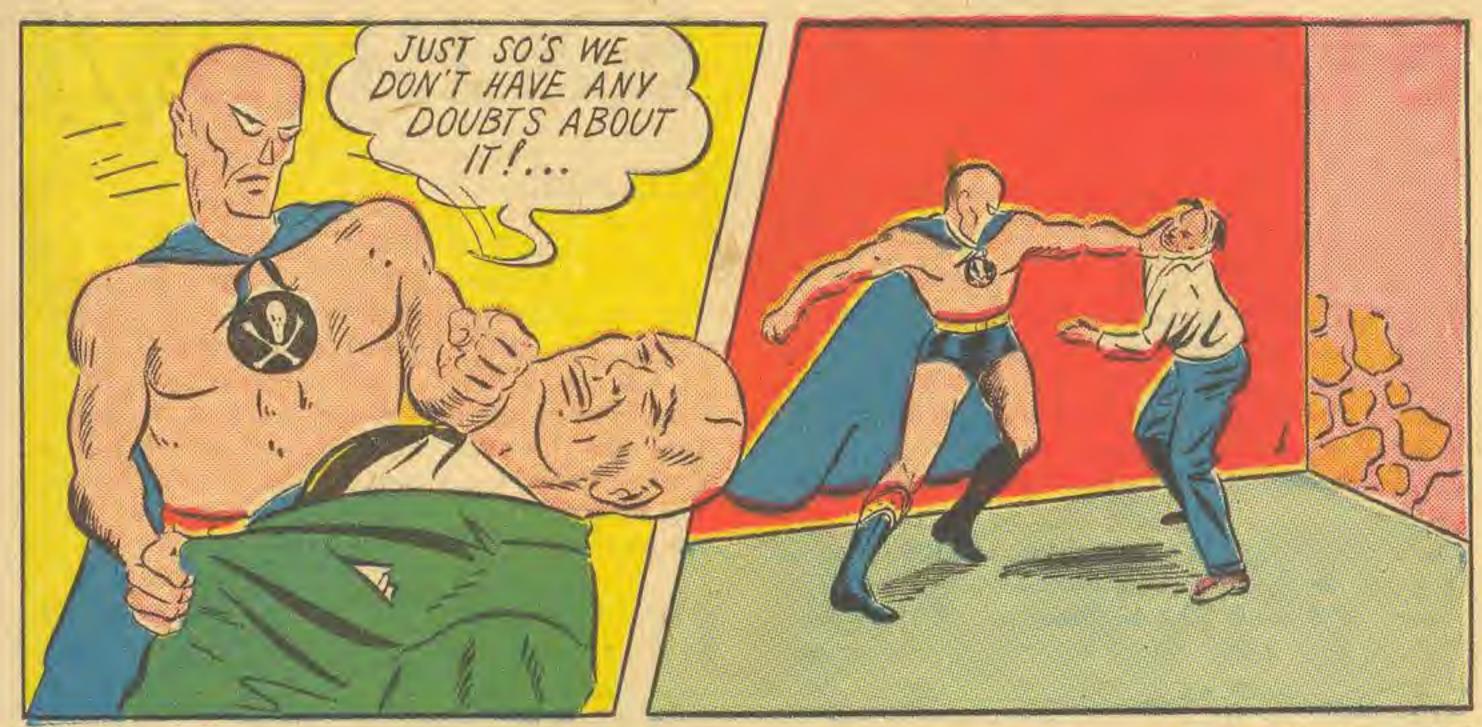






















NEXT MONTH
THE

'IRON SKULL"

TACKLES THE LONGLOST CONTINENT OF
ATLANTIS ~

SINGLE-HANDED!

CAN HE OVERCOME
THESE TREMENDOUS
ODDS?..

SUICIDE EXPRESS

by ROBERT TURNER

HE long snake-like freight train with its box and tank cars reached the top of the steep up-grade and slowly gathered speed. The great engine, like some steel monster seemed to get its second wind after the long haul. Smoke spurted from its stack in quickened gasps.

In one of the box cars a group of men squatted around the sickly yellow glow of a lantern. They were all dressed like hoboes, but their manner belied their dress. They were not carefree and lax and easy going. Beneath their beards their faces were strained. One of the men, obviously the leader, wore diamond rings on several fingers. Between his pinched lips jutted a gemmed cigaret holder. He said to the others:

"The time has almost come, Where are the others? Three more of our agents should have climbed aboard on that upgrade. Where are they? We need every man!"

The others did not answer. They fidgeted and changed positions and flicked their glances nervously from one to the other.

A sudden scraping sound from the door of the box car, the men all turned abruptly. Three figures, struggling to climb aboard the now fast moving train were silhouetted against the moonlit night outside. They made it and moved through the gloom toward the yellow light. Their hands were outstretched before them in a Nazi salute. They were all big men. They too were dressed nondescriptly like hoboes. The first of the trio said:

"Heil, Herr Lustig. We were delayed and almost missed the train!"

The leader of the others waved his hands and the jewels flashed in the dim light. He made a gutteral sound in his throat, then spoke: "So long as you are here," Lustig said, "it does not matter. We go into action at once."

He paused and dug a dead butt out of the end of the cigaret holder, then leaned forward toward the others and said in a hoarse whisper: "I will review once again, our plans. There are a dozen oil tank cars in this train. On the next down grade there is a switch off leading to the huge Monroe Munitions Plant. The switchman has already been replaced by one of our agents. At full speed this freight will tear toward the munitions plant. You men will attack the brakemen and the engineer so that they will not at the last moment try to spoil our plans. Then we will ignite the oil tank cars. When the train goes crashing into the munitions plant—"

ONE of the newscomers shuddered at the unfinished sentence—at the terrible import of the unspoken words. He nudged another man that had boarded with him. As though it was a pre-arranged signal, the third man received a jolt of an elbow. The next moment all three of the late arrivals whipped off battered hats. One was a redhead, another a platinum blond and the third man had bluish-black hair. Lustig and his group of spies looked on in amazement at the red, white and blue heads of Pepper, Whitey and Van, that patriotic, three man army known as the Stars And Stripes!

Herr Lustig sucked a shocked, indrawn breath through his teeth. "You—you are not one of us!" he gasped. "You—you three are—"

Before he could finish the trio whipped off their patched and dirty bums garments and stood like three splendidly developed young giants in their red and white striped prison suits with the big blue stars emblazoned on their chests.

"That's right." said Pepper, grinning: "We are THE STARS AND STRIPES!"

"We've been trying to catch up with you and your little group of Fifth Columnists for a long time, Lustig. Today we captured three of your men and took their places," Van said grimly. "Hope you don't mind."

"And thanks for tipping us off to your plans," put in Whitey. "Now we can bust them up."

Herr Lustig spluttered like an indignant maiden aunt. Then his hand flashed inside his jacket, whipped out with a Luger blazing lead and fire. But the Stars and Stripes were no longer there. They were diving toward Lustig's men. Three of them went down beneath the trio's vicious flying tackles. The lamp kicked over and

Another Adventure of THE STARS-AND STRIPES

flickered out. Gunshots and foreign oaths racketed through the sudden darkness. In the gloom, Whitey, Pepper and Van stood shoulder to shoulder, meeting the attack of the spies with coolly calculated and telling blows. Three of the gang went down with every charge.

BUT suddenly the train lurched and swayed. Couplings strained and groaned as the long freight switched from the main track onto the down-grade siding leading to the munitions plant.

The Stars and Stripes, caught off balance were hurled hard against a wall of the box car. Before they could scramble to their feet, Lustig and three of his men leapt upon them, guns clubbed. All the American boys could do was hunch in their necks like turtles and try to take the swishing, murderous blows with the least possible damage.

A few moments later Herr Lustig stood peering down through the darkness at the three limp figures slumped against the wall.

"Ah!" he murmured. "Yankee fools! They will bother us no more. Hurry! We must get busy!"

WHEN Pepper regained consciousness, the first thing he noticed was the roaring speed of the train and the aerid stench of burning oil. He shook his head, determinedly, fought off the pain and nausea that threatened to engulf him. He groped through the blackness until his hands gripped the shoulders of Van and Whitey. He shook them, viciously until they too, stirred and came to.

"We've got to stop this thing, before it hits the munitions factory!" Pepper shouted over the din of the speeding train. He pointed toward a rope dangling in the door of the box car. "Lustig and the others have gone up to the top of the train. Let's get up there after them!"

The three men leaped toward the rope, clambered up onto the roof of the box car. Standing there on the swaying on-rushing freight car, the Stars and Stripes stared ahead at the six oil tank cars. They were a solid mass of roaring flames, sending cascades of sparks showering backward.

"The only way we can stop this speeding inferno and save the factory, is to get up to the engine!" Whitey hollered. "But how? We couldn't get past those blazing tankers if we had asbestos suits!"

Just then Van spotted a speeding automobile

along the road a few yards from the track, parallel with the train.

"There's your answer," Van yelled. "Let's go!"

ONE of the things that made the Stars and Stripes such a menace to gangdom and spy rings was that in emergencies they thought fast and reacted faster. Hardly had Van finished speaking and three red, white and blue costumed figures were leaping through space toward the racing automobile. They landed in a huddled sprawl on the roof, each helping the other to maintain his balance. While Whitey and Van gripped his arms and legs to keep him from toppling off, Pepper leaned over the roof and ordered the driver:

"Catch up to the engine of that train and then stay right alongside of it. It's a matter of life and death!"

Obediently the driver caused the car to leap forward. In no time at all it was running neck and neck with the engine of the freight train. Once more three patriotic figures cut through space. This time they landed on the coal car behind the engine. They got to their feet, hurriedly, stumbled through the coal and leaped into the engine cab.

Herr Lustig was just setting the throttle. On the floor the fireman and the engineer were lying unconscious. Two other spies stood by with drawn guns. But they never got a chance to use them. The Stars and Stripes hit them like falling comets. There was a terrible scramble for a few hectic seconds. Then the sound of fists connecting solidly with bearded jaws.

About a hundred yards from the wall of the Monroe Munitions Plant, the flaming freight train braked to a final; shuddering halt. The wheels made their last turn and stopped. Three figures in patriotic prison suits leaped from the cab and before any of the startled observers could stop them, they had disappeared into nearby woods.

GOVERNMENT men stationed at the plant, upon arriving at the stalled train found Herr Lustig and the remainder of his men, hanging limp and unconscious from throttles and levers of the engine's control board. They were recognized instantly as long-wanted foreign agents.

One of the G-men wiped perspiration from his brow. "Whew!" he whispered and shivered. "I'd hate to think of what would have happened if this flame-train hadn't been stopped in time. Thank Uncle Sam for men like the Stars and Stripes!"

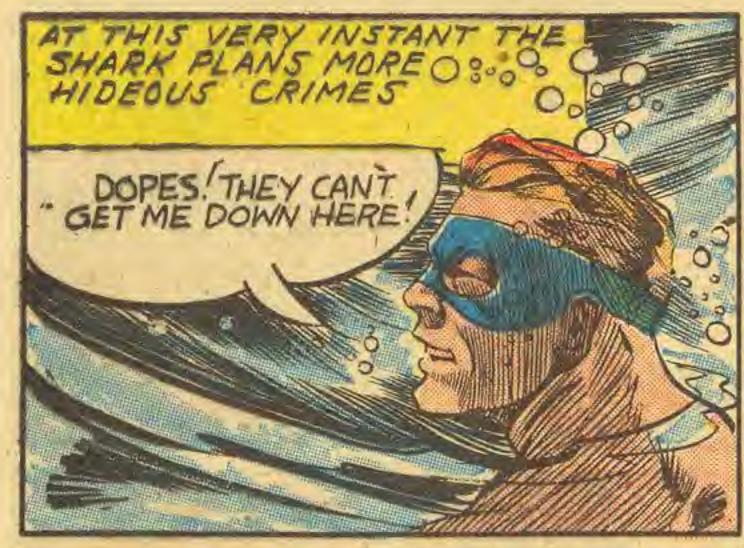


























THE SHARK DASHES OUT -

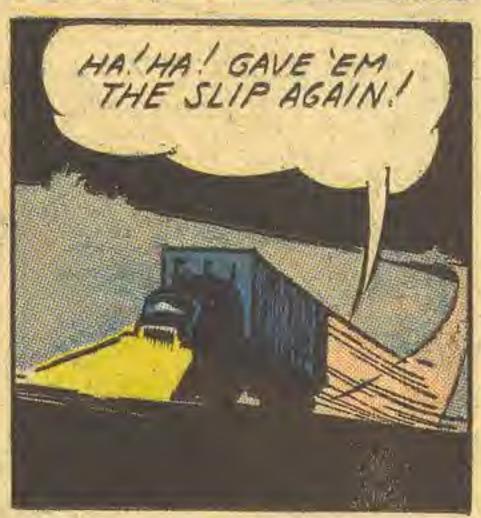


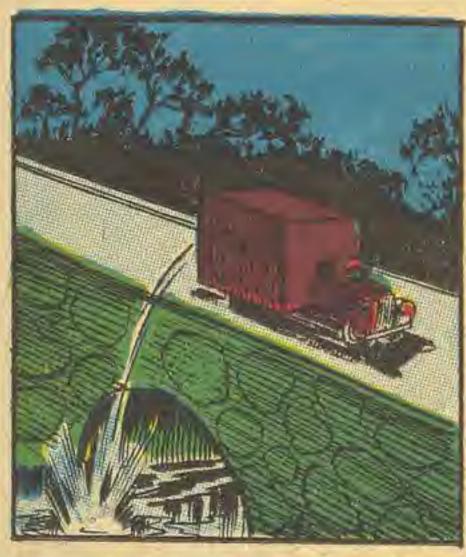












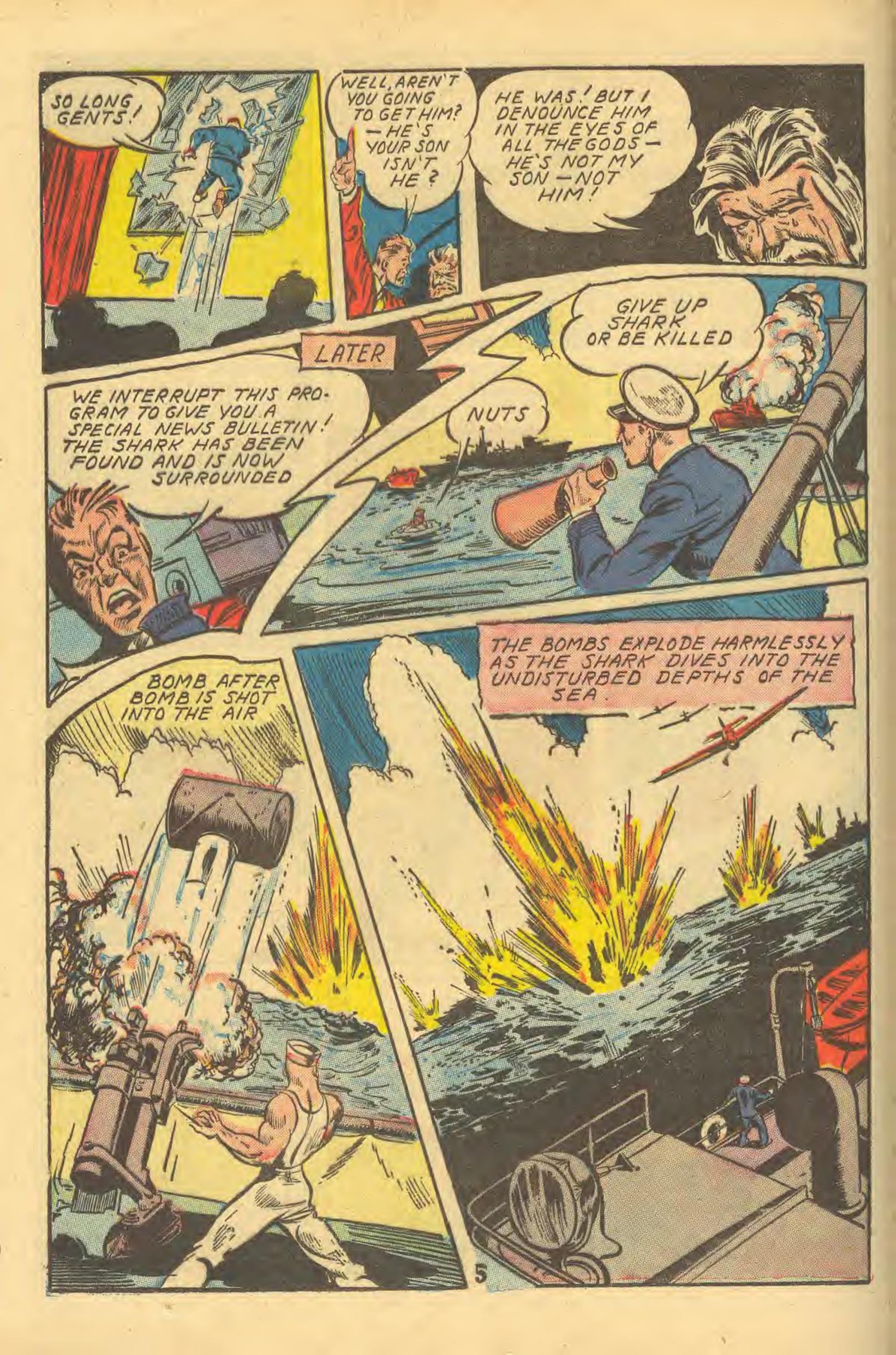










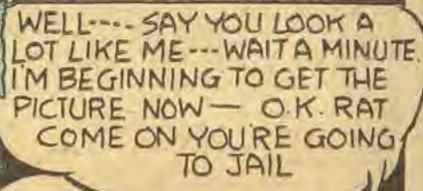










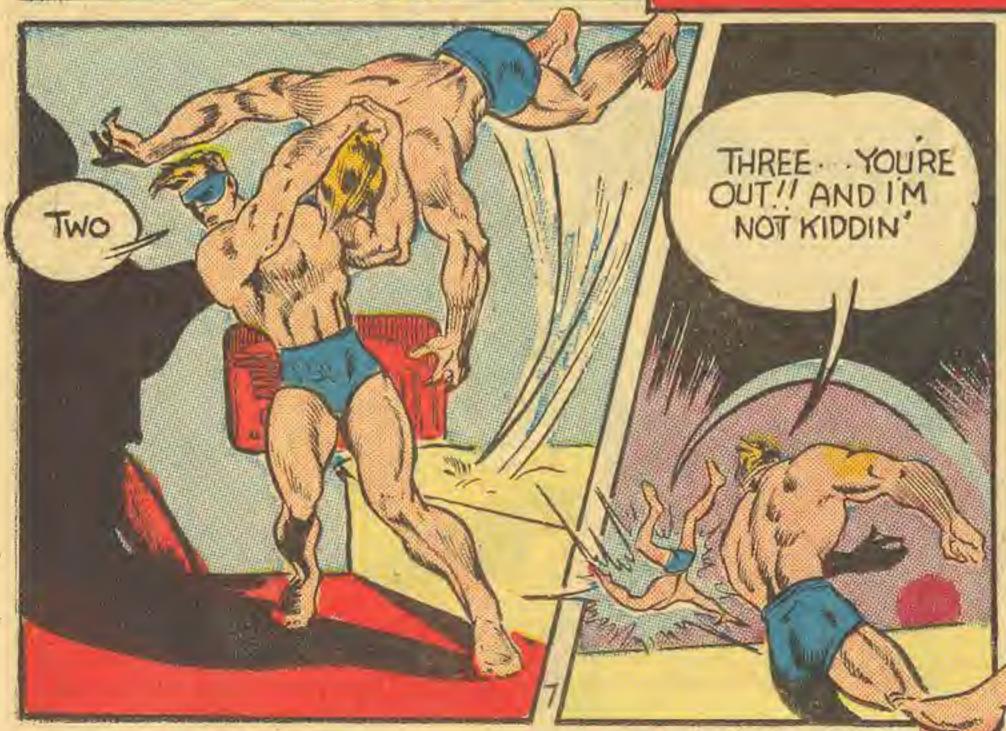














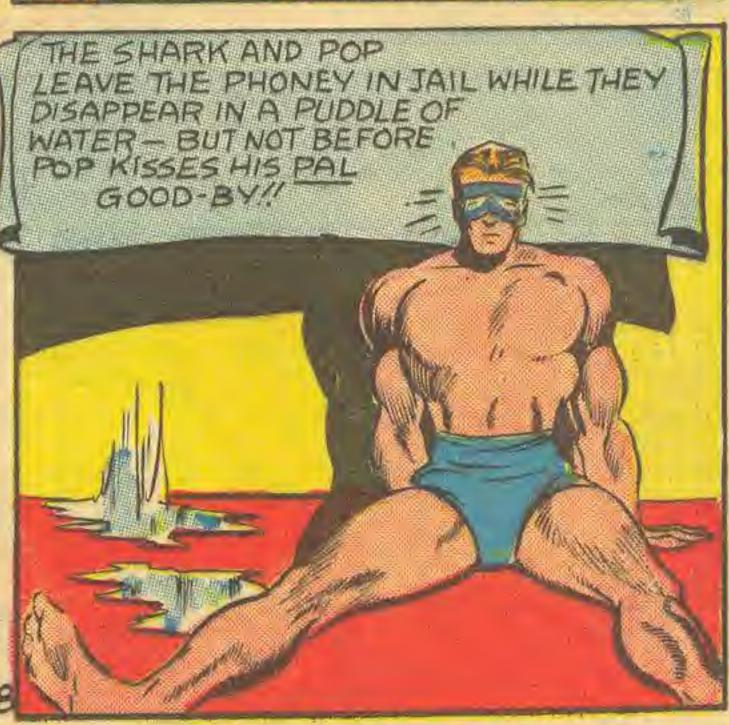


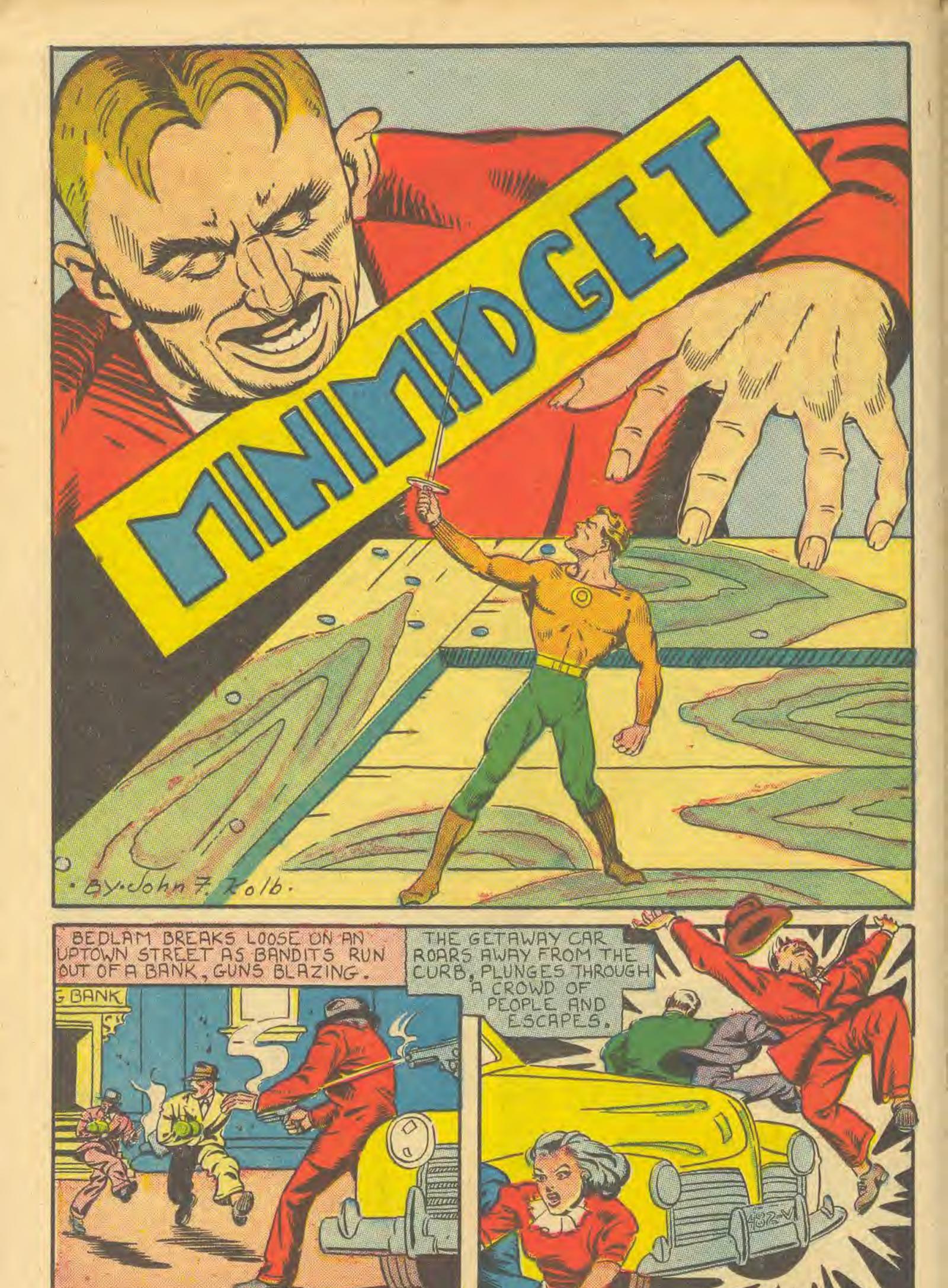














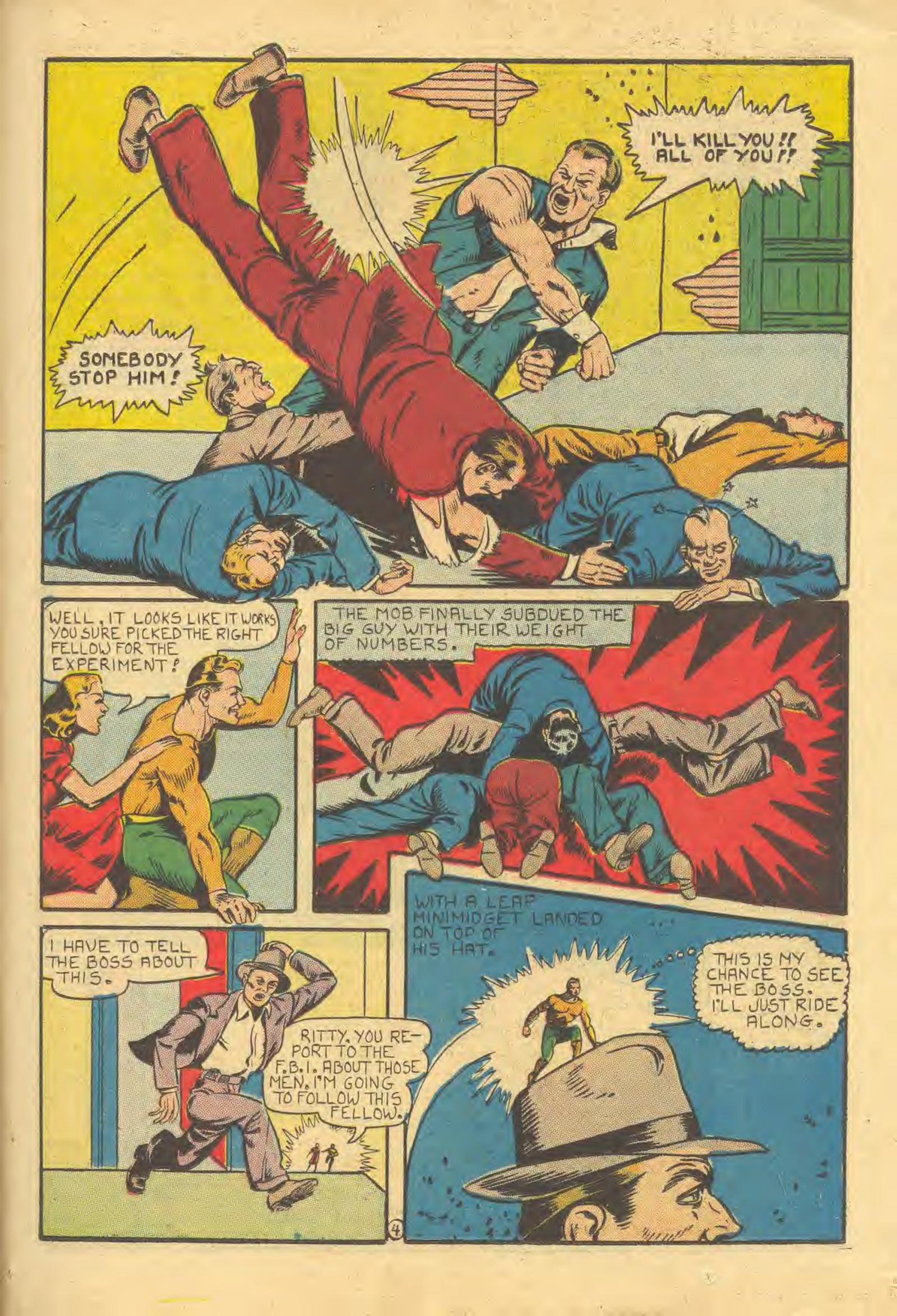


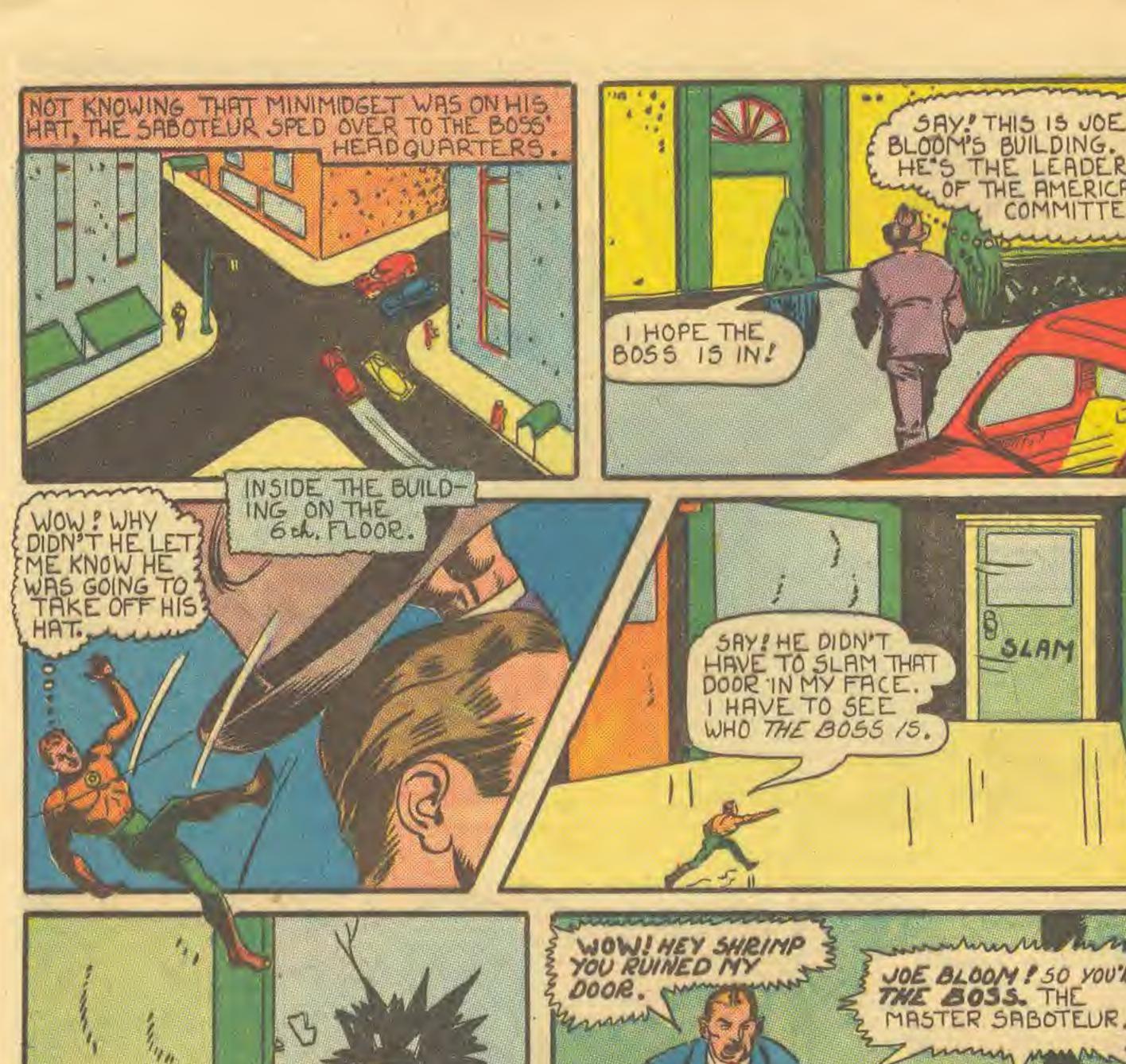








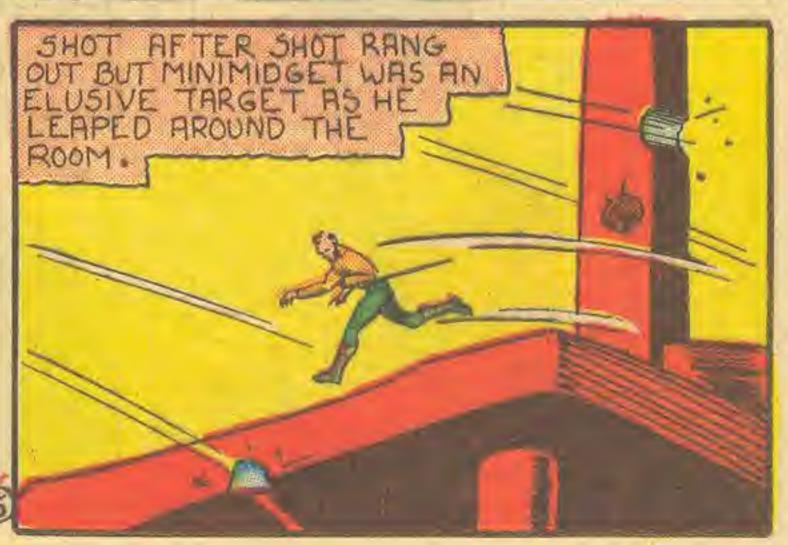








SHIP



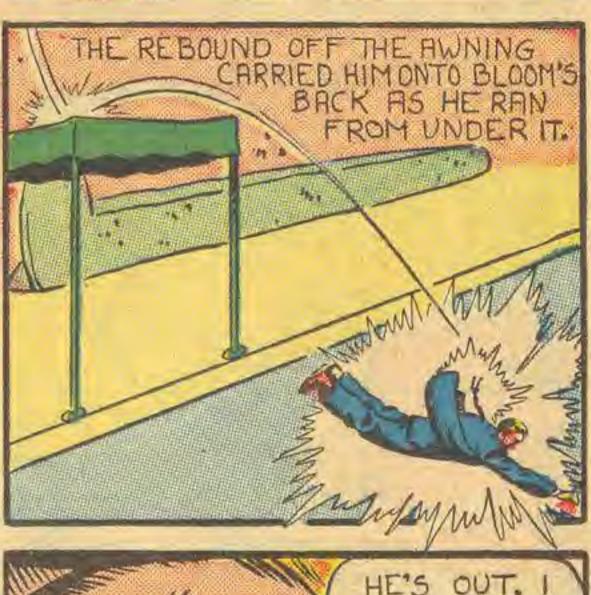












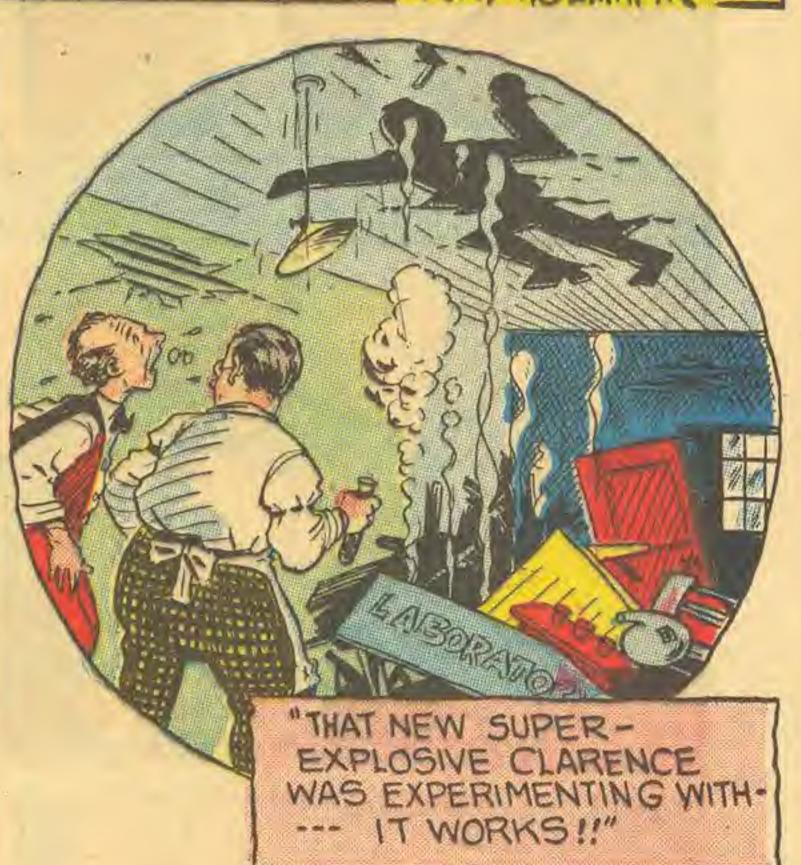






LIFE AT ITS WORST,





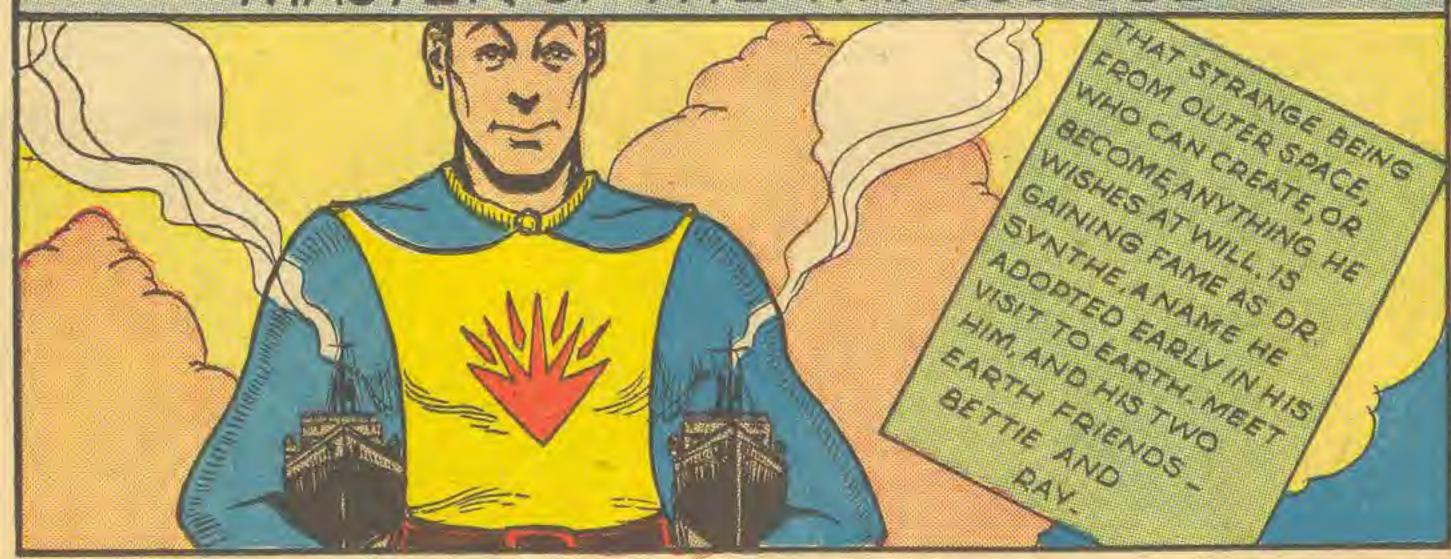
"-ER-R--- PERHAPS THE NEXT CHIN, MADAME?"





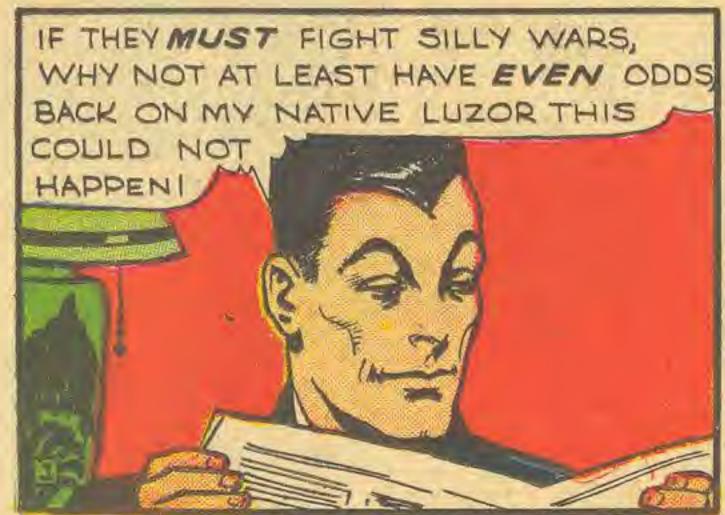


MASTER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE













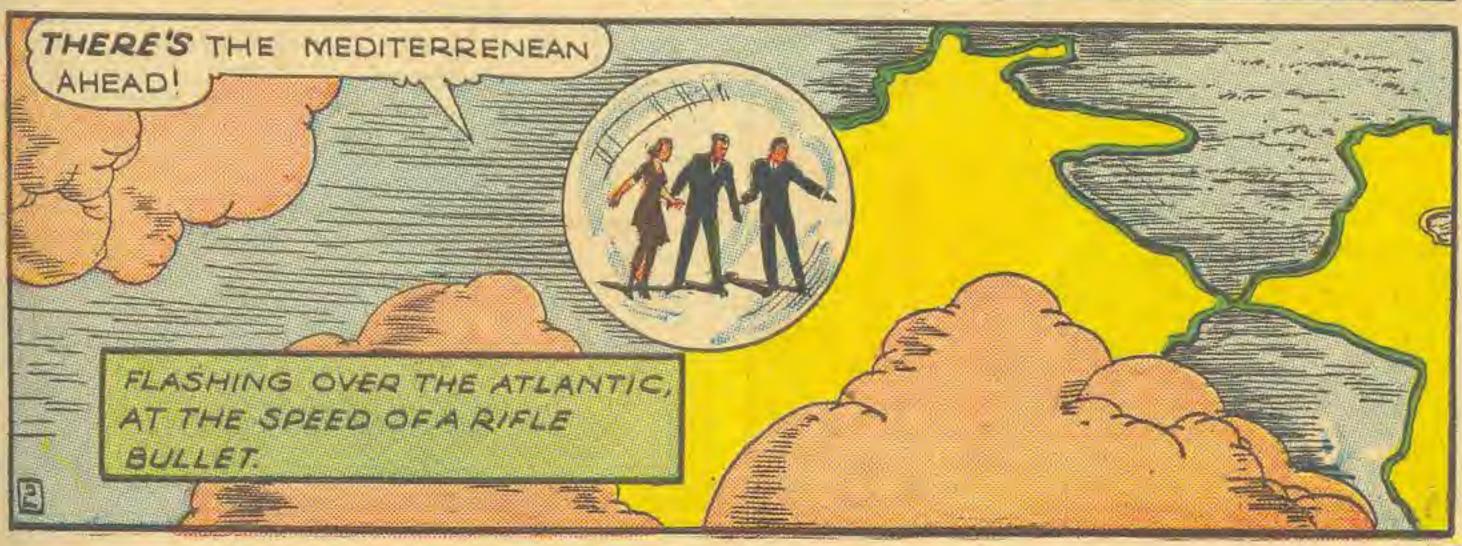








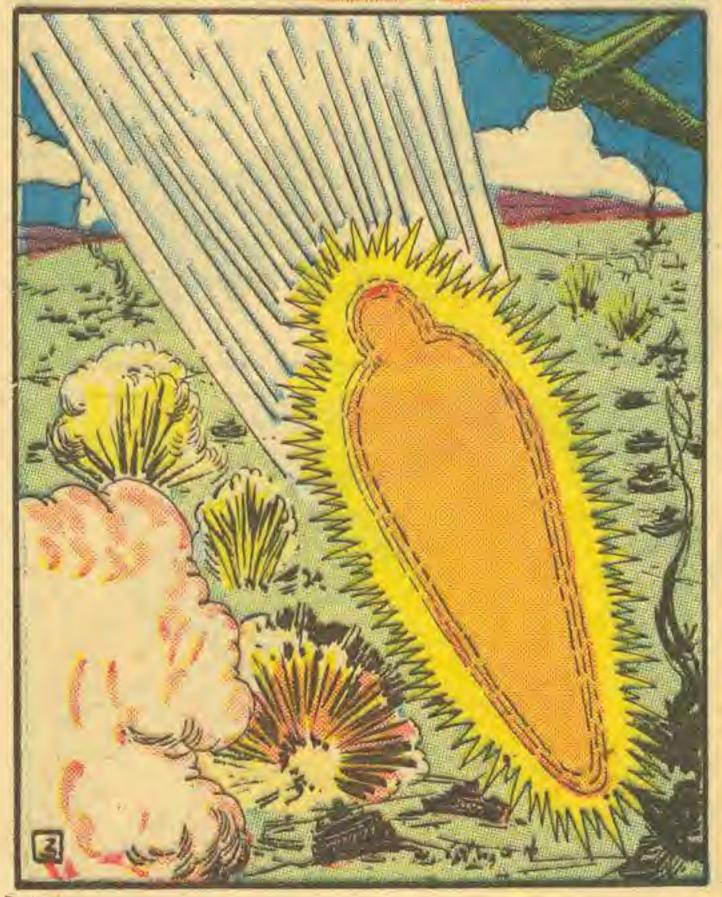






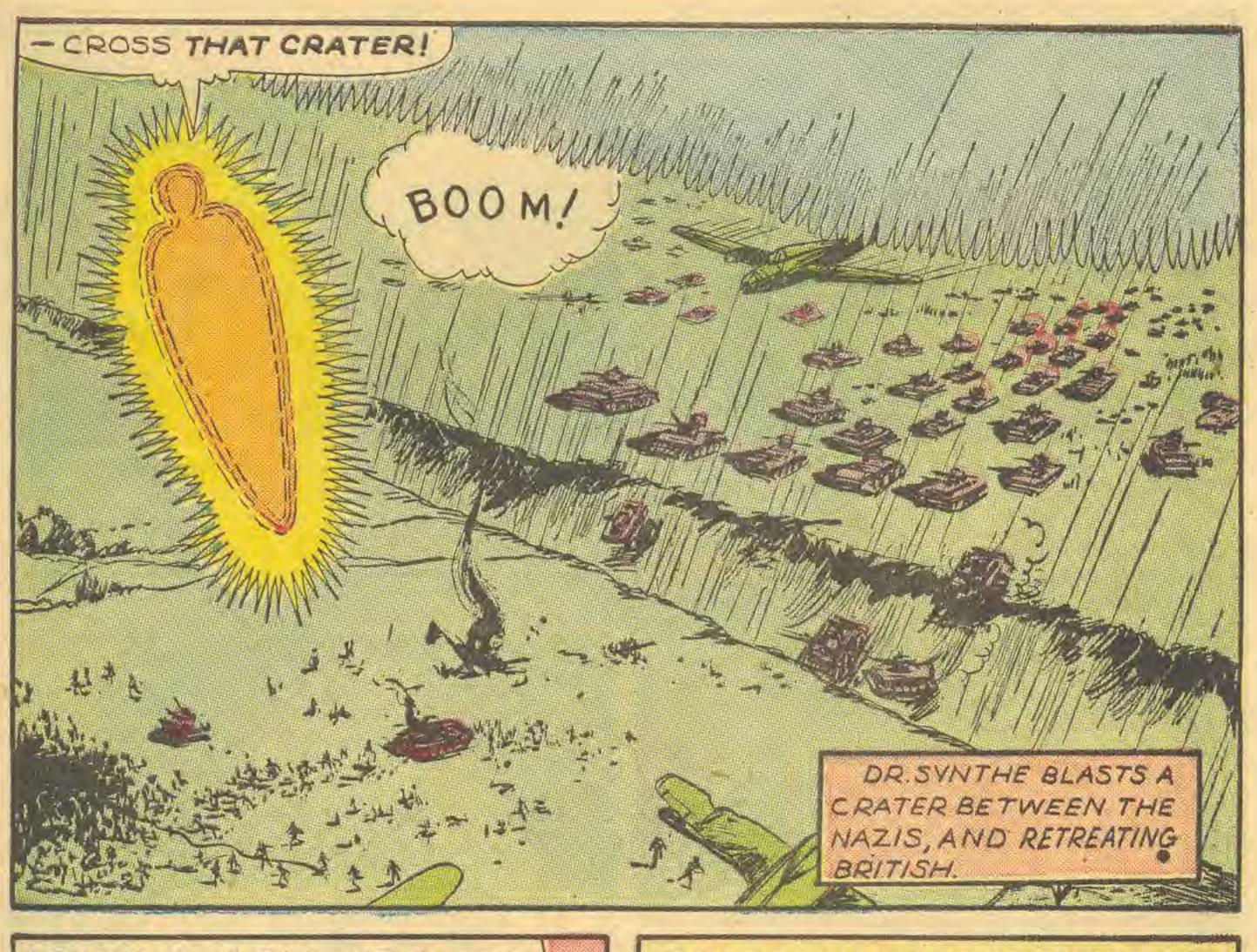


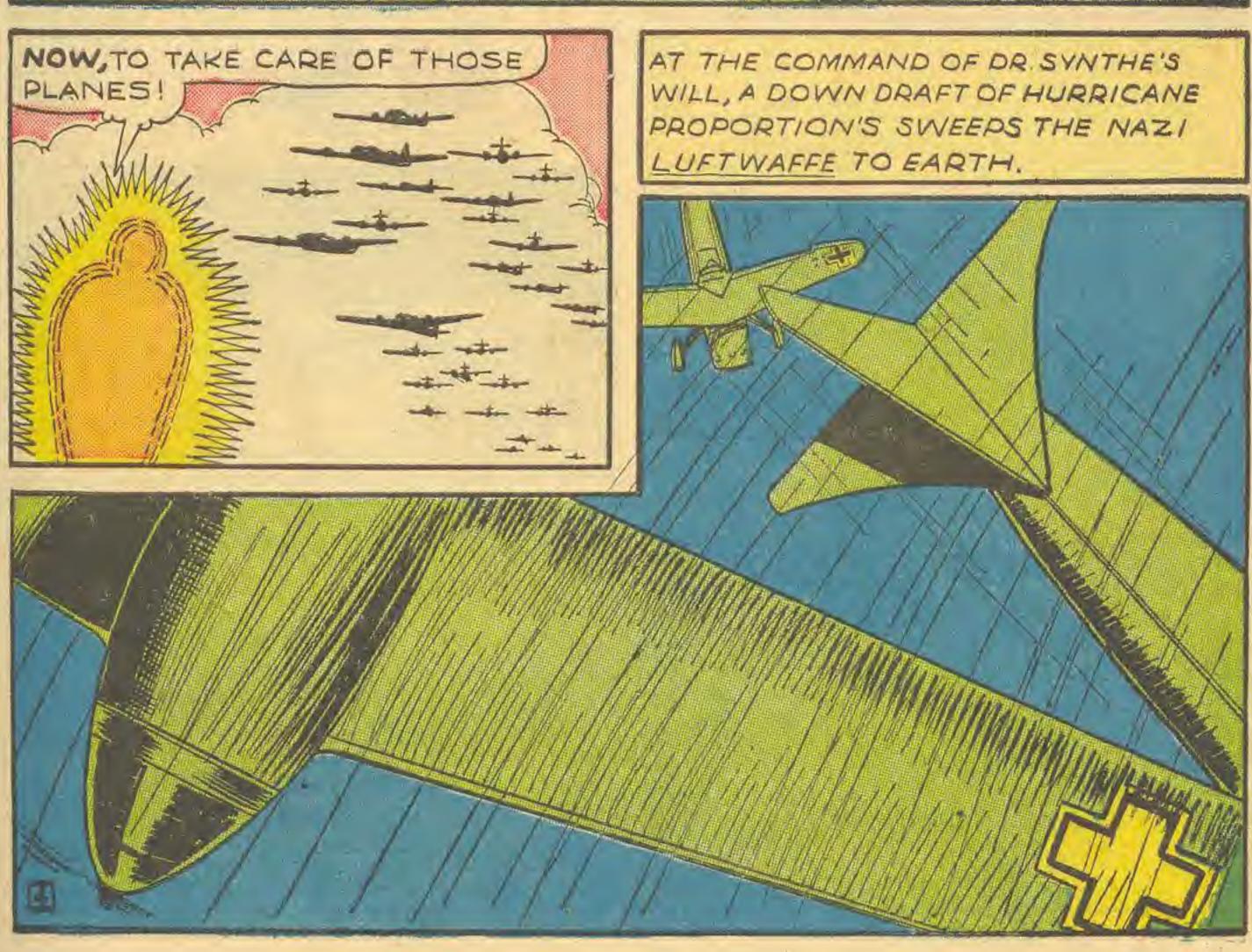
IN HIS REAL FORM, A PILLAR OF FORCE AND LIGHT, SYNTHE DROPS TO THE WAR-TORN EARTH.















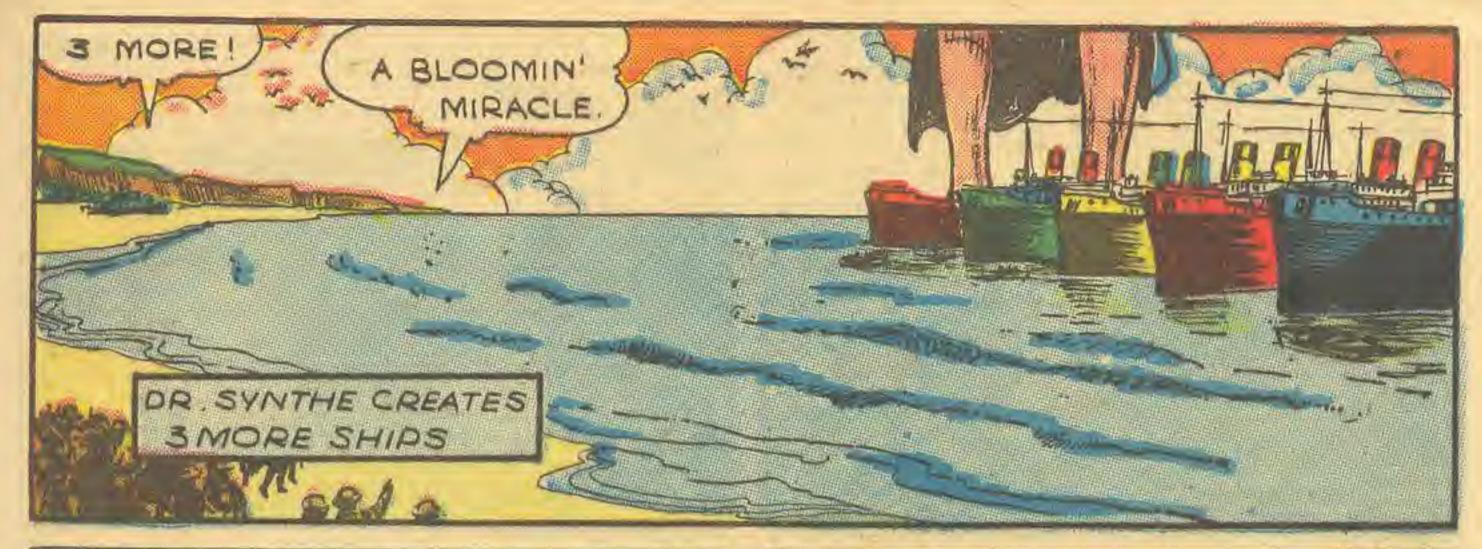
MATERIALIZING AS A GIANT, DR SYNTHE WADES, WITH MILE LONG STRIDES, A SHIP UNDER EACH ARM

HERE ARE YOUR TRANSPORTS.









UNFORTUNATELY, THIS POWER OF MINE ISN'T INEXHAUSTIBLE! I'LL HAVE TO SHRINK BACK TO NORMAL SIZE!

AND, BECAUSE OF SYNTHE'S EX-HAUSTION, THE DOWN DRAFT DISAPPEARS.



RAY, SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE LUFT WAFFE ARE IN THE AIR AGAIN.





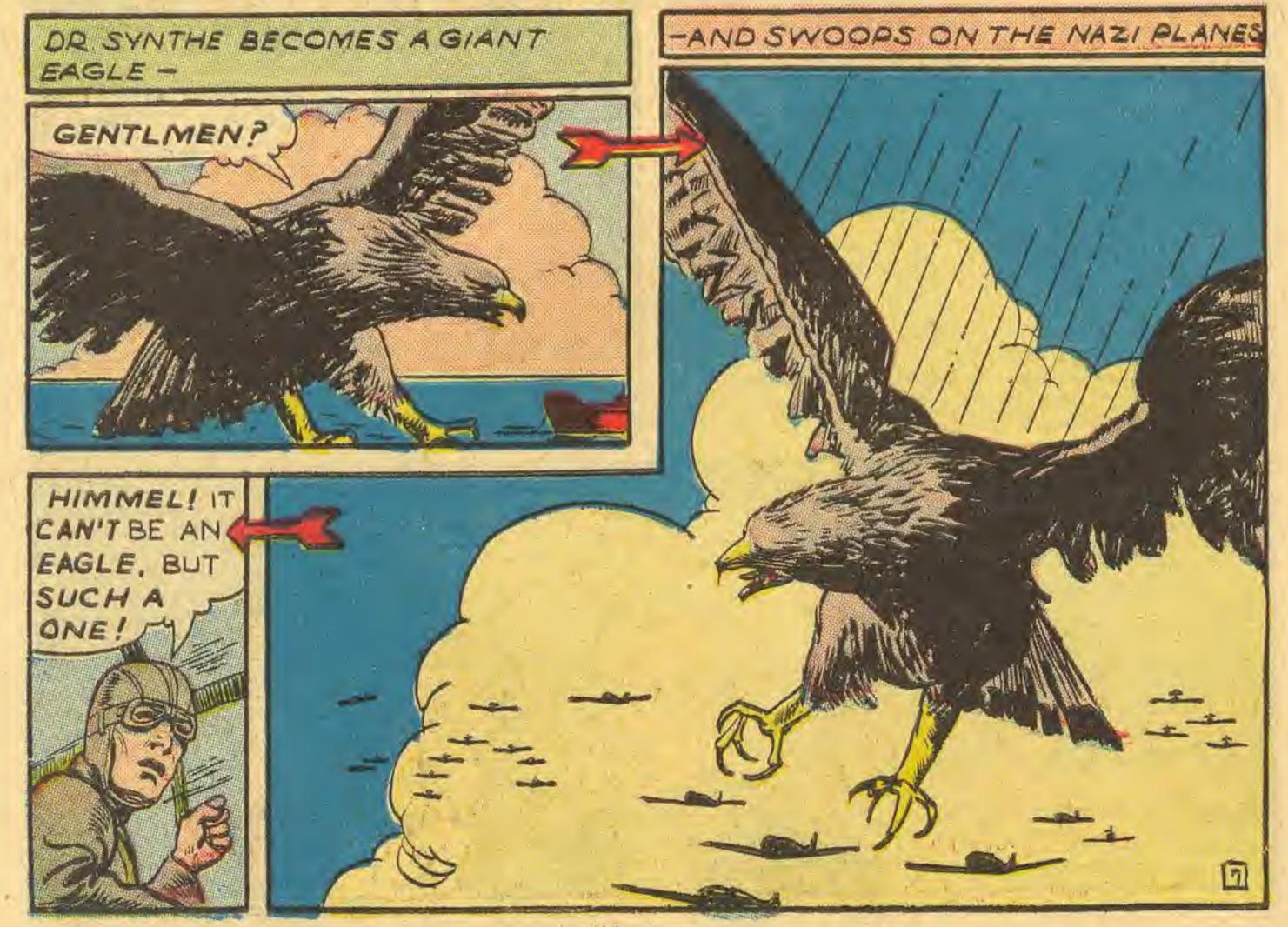










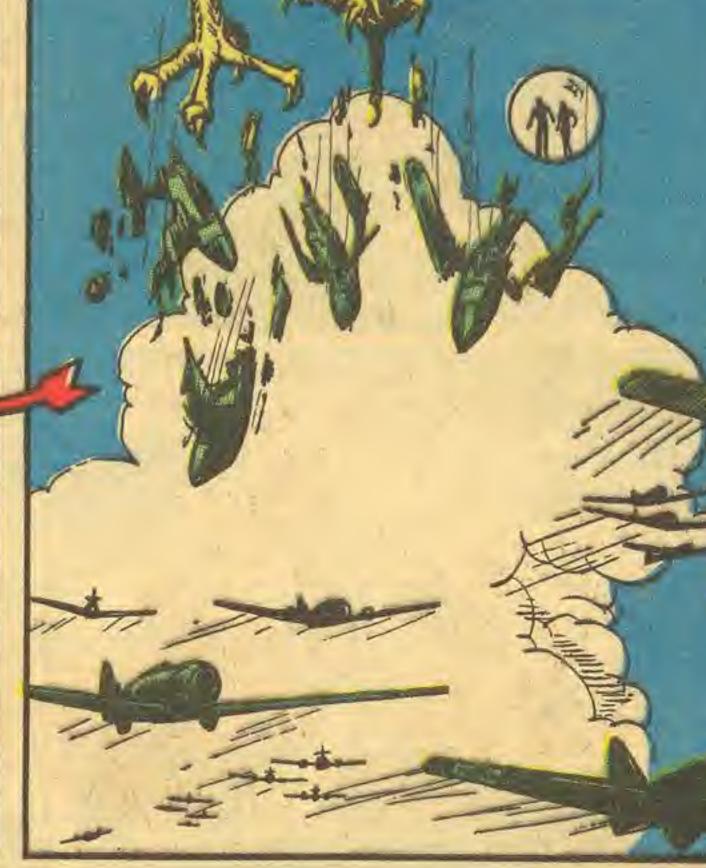


GREAT TALONS GRASP NAZI PLANES-





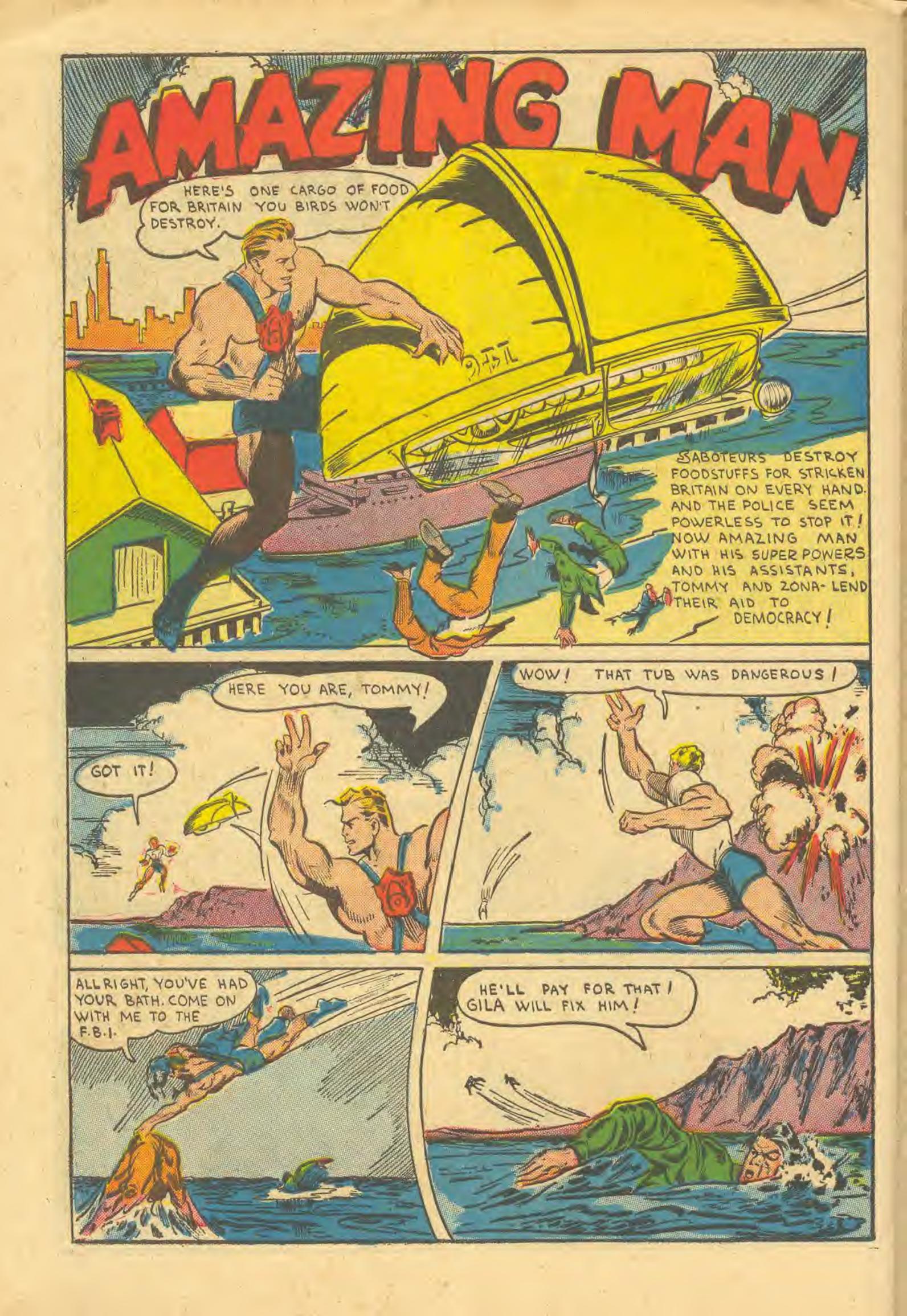
AS THE BROKEN SHIPS FLUTTER TO EARTH, THE REMAINDER, TERROR -STRICKEN, FLEE.





















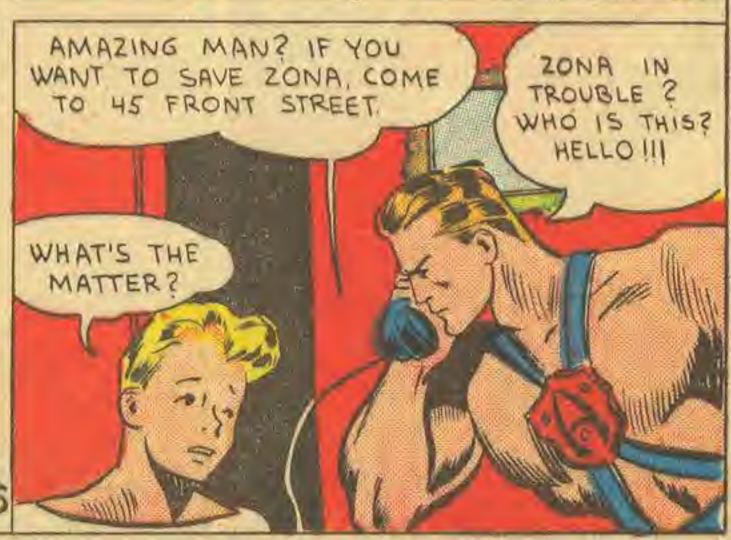




















PRIZES! THEY'RE YOURS!



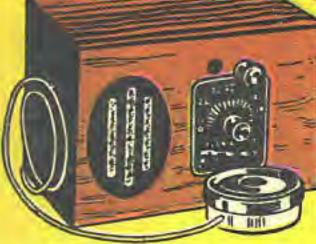
Sell only one order and get a beautiful WRIST WATCH. Styles for boys, girls, men and women.

Two famous Model Airplane Sets.

BRITISH "SPITFIRE" and U.S. "AIRACOBRA." Both Given.



FAMOUS YALE FOOTBALL SET
Official size and weight. Pump
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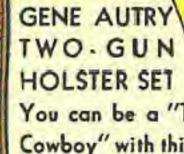
MIDGET RADIO
Get this cute little radio
for your room.



Red Ryder licensed by Stephen Slesinger, Inc. New

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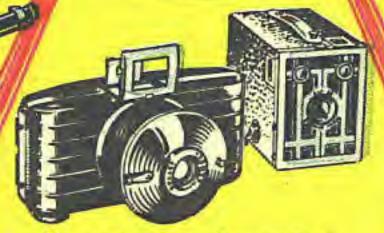
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swell RED RYDER
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Air Rifle. A real he-man's
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You can be a "Two-Gun Cowboy" with this fine set. Gene Autrý friendship ring FREE



Girls! You'll love this full size TOILET & MANICURE SET for your dresser.



Your choice of genuine EASTMAN CAMERAS. Bullet or Brownie.

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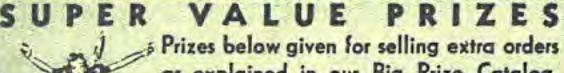
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